The National
Future Farmer

Published by the Future Farmers of Amer[illegible] February-March, 1987

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The National
Future Farmer
Published by the Future Farmers of America

February-March, 1987
Volume 35 Number 3 ISSN 0027-9315

A Word With The Editor

Would you like to see the FFA, or Future Farmers of America, change its name?

How would you like to drop the word "farmer" from all printed material, ceremonies or references to the organization including the name of this magazine?

Would you like to have a new emblem? What should FFA members should be called?

There is a committee of the FFA at work that could bring about all these changes—and more. The committee was authorized by the Board of Directors and National Officers and is scheduled to submit its final report in January, 1988. Hearings were held at the recent National FFA Convention and others are scheduled for this spring.

You can help direct their course of action, whether you are an FFA member, vocational agriculture teacher, alumni, Foundation sponsor or any of the many other supporters of FFA. This panel is open to inputs from anyone who has a suggestion on how to improve this organization and help it meet the challenges that lie ahead.

The committee was asked to make an indepth study of the constitution, bylaws and operating structure from a conceptual standpoint in view of the changes in state education systems and the National Academy of Sciences report to be released this spring.

Those serving on this committee are Kip Godwin, past national officer from North Carolina; Jerry Paxton, vo-ag instructor from Wyoming; Richard Foster, teacher educator from Nebraska; David Alders, former national officer from Texas; Tommy Johnson, state supervisor from Virginia and the chairman, Ray Hagan, former executive secretary from Missouri. Lennie Gamage is the national staff person working with the committee.

But don't wait for a meeting. Send your suggestions to the committee c/o Lennie Gamage, National FFA Center, P.O.. Box 15160, Alexandria, Virginia 22309.

Wilson Carnes

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The Cover: *Cover Photo by Bill Stagg*
Agri-science Teacher of the Year winner Steve McKay assists two of his students clone a plant using tissue culture technology.

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News in Brief

FFA Sends Jacket For Movie Filming

Betty Nelson of the National FFA Supply Service finishes the embroidery on an FFA jacket that will be used in "Promised Land," a new film produced by Robert Redford. Redford's production company contacted the Supply Service and requested a jacket with the name Jerry Baines and office of Secretary-Treasurer.

With Ashville, Utah, lettered on the back, the jacket was mailed to Midvale, Utah, located on the outskirts of Salt Lake City. The film should be released sometime later this year or early next year.

England Exchange Ready

A new student exchange program between the FFA and the English Young Farmer Club is open for any interested FFA member or alumni age 18 to 24 wanting to travel to England this summer. This exchange will be different than most international programs because of its briefness. Participants can go to England for as little as three to four weeks and can choose when they want to go. Participants will live and work with a host family, go sightseeing and take part in English social events.

An important part of the exchange program is that FFA members will in turn host the Young Farmer they stayed with in England. This one-to-one exchange program will be accepting applications until March 15. Anyone interested should write to the International Department, National FFA Center, Box 15160, Alexandria, Virginia, 22309 or call (703) 360-3600 for an application and more information.

FFA Center Welcomes Young Farmers

The National Young Farmers Association's office and its new executive director, Wayne Sprick, have moved to the National FFA Center in Alexandria, Virginia. Sprick is from Washington, Missouri, where he teaches secondary and adult classes at the Four Rivers Area Vocational and Technical School. He was selected National Teacher of the Year by the American Vocational Association in 1986.

Tony Lama Honored

Tony Lama, Jr., chairman of the board of Tony Lama Company, Inc., (right) was presented with an FFA plaque commemorating the company's 75th anniversary. Eugene D. Brassett, western advertising sales representative of *The National FUTURE FARMER* magazine, (left) awarded the plaque "in appreciation of 23 years of continual advertising support given to us by the Tony Lama Company." The presentation was made at the company's headquarters in El Paso, Texas, earlier this year.

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Save the Heifers

Children of improverished families in rural areas of Mexico, Jordan and Honduras now have milk thanks to Heifer Project International, a U.S. based, non-profit agriculture development agency. Heifer Project has been saving cattle scheduled for slaughter under the federally sponsored Dairy Termination Program and shipping the cows to areas where milk is not normally available.

The agency has already shipped about 1,000 cattle and shipments are being scheduled to Egypt, Bolivia, Jordan and Mexico for 1987.

Exploded Mushrooms: Gourmet Food or Snack

Mushrooms can now be "puff-dried," stored indefinitely, and then cooked in boiling water, while retaining their flavor and texture. Uncooked, the mushrooms can be eaten as a new snack that is tasty, nutritious, and low calorie, says a scientist for USDA's Agricultural Research Service.

Unlike conventionally dried mushrooms that are flat, hard flakes, explosion-puffed mushrooms have a porous texture that allows them to take up water rapidly. Popping them into boiling water for 5 minutes makes them suitable as a food condiment or an ingredient in soups.

In the puff-drying system, high air pressure is exerted on batches of mushrooms. When the pressure is suddenly released, the moisture inside them literally explodes. The process can save 40 percent of the energy required in conventional food-drying systems.

Bucks for Wisconsin Farmers

Milwaukee Bucks basketball coach Don Nelson recently headed a fundraising drive that secured over $400,000 for Nellie's Farm Fund to help troubled Wisconsin farmers.

Coach Nelson drove a Case IH-donated tractor on a nine-day, 250-mile trek across Wisconsin. The tractor trip alone raised $150,000, the majority through donations, auctions and breakfast fundraisers held along the route.

The fund-raising efforts also motivated Nelson to get himself and farmers in better shape. In early summer, Nelson promised to lose 50 pounds and pledges were made totaling $1,200 for each pound lost. Nelson topped his goal dropping 65 pounds by his final weigh-in.

In Search of Answers

Nebraska is building a $5 million food processing institute. Alabama is adding farmers' markets. South Carolina is promoting aquaculture. Iowa is pushing home-grown fruits and vegetables.

These are a few of the initiatives that states are taking to cope with the lingering depression in agriculture, according to Dr. Edmund Estes, an extension economist at North Carolina State University.

Estes says that about half the states have undertaken special studies and projects to assist hard-pressed farmers. "Many leaders in these states feel that the role of the federal government in assisting farm communities is diminishing and that they must fill the void," he says.

Several southern states, including North Carolina, are looking at the possibilities of aquaculture. In Mississippi the emphasis is on catfish, in Louisiana it's crayfish, in Texas it's shrimp. South Carolina is working on both shrimp and crayfish, and in North Carolina, emphasis is on both rainbow trout and striped bass. Regardless of the product, the idea is the same; the answer to low commodity prices and overproduction is to grow something else with a stronger market.

Convicts Take Corn Growing Championship

A group of prison convicts won the North Carolina corn growing championship for 1986. The award-winning acre yielded 228.7 bushels on a special contest plot located on the Caledonia Prison Farm in Halifax County.

This year's severe drought cut the state's average corn yield in 1986 to 62 bushels, the lowest in many years. Caledonia was able to produce the largest yield because of an irrigation system installed in 1983.

The corn is used to feed the farm's 10,000 hogs, 3,500 cattle and 40,000 laying hens to help feed the state's prison population.

ATV's with PTO's Introduced

Yamaha Motor Corporation, U.S.A. has announced the introduction of "Terrapro," the world's first all terrain vehicle (ATV) with power take off (PTO).

The PTO makes the Terrapro a new type of ATV. It allows the vehicle to supply power for a wide range of utility equipment: mowers, sprayers, water pumps, air compressors, fertilizer or seed spreaders, generators, grain augers, and many other kinds of equipment that require a power source.

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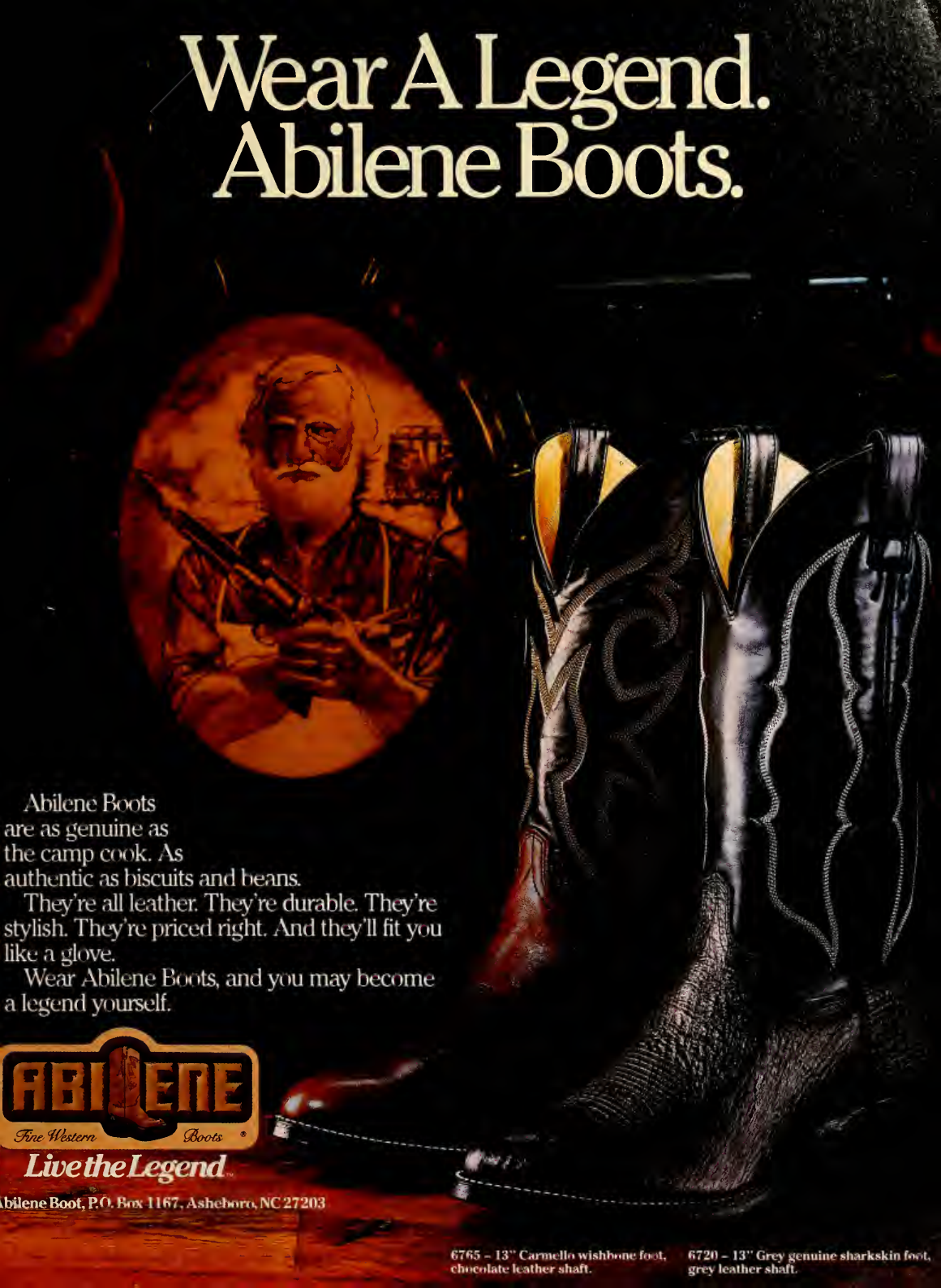

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The Mailbag

Rabbit Hunting

I compliment you on your article "Hunting King Cottontail" (December-January, 1986-87). I have just started to hunt rabbits and after reading your article I have learned more about those little critters.

Bill Self
Kempton, Illinois

Suggestions Offered

The National FUTURE FARMER is a great magazine. Here are some suggestions: 1) A tip of the month concerning things of landscaping, gardening or agriculture, 2) An issue fully discussing the FFA constitution, 3) Monthly events that the FFA will be engaged in.

Robert Ellis, Jr.
Jacksonville, North Carolina

Rows of Blue Jackets

In November an FFA member, at the age of 15, died of an accidental gunshot wound. He was buried wearing his blue FFA jacket. His casket bearers were also dressed as such. There were over 90 of his fellow FFA members attending the funeral. As I sat in the service and glanced down the pews of blue jackets, I felt such pride in our small community of fine young men and women.

I think you are doing a fine job as an organization and I am proud to have a son who is part of it.

Phyllis Mayberry
Kellyville, Oklahoma

WEA Praises

A few months ago, my son Rick and I read in the magazine some inquiries about the WEA program. Rick was in Sweden until December. He went to Australia in January until May or June. This is an experience that has done so much for him.

Janet Adams
Laton, California

Response to Response

Your response to Janet Malo's letter in the December-January, 1986-87, issue of the magazine was about as offending as the "joke" Janet referred to.

Your response appeared to condone such type of "humor." The joke Janet referred to undermines authority for police, it says if you refuse to deal with an uncomfortable situation, run or drive away from it, refuse to deal with it. Are these the things you want to teach these young FFA people? In a not-so-subtle way, that is exactly what you are doing when you publish things of that nature.

Margaret Barker
Garvin, Minnesota

BRIDGE Interest

I really like the article in the December-January, 1986-87, issue on page 23 (BRIDGE Scholarship Aids Rural Disabled) about helping disabled FFA members. I would love to help out any way I can. It does not take much to let them know you really care. Send in a contribution and make someone happy. I know I am.

Rodney Pickel
Williston, Florida

Send letters or notes with name, address and chapter to: MAILBAG, The National FUTURE FARMER, P.O. Box 15160, Alexandria, VA 22309. All letters are subject to editing.

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The Secrets of Science

Students are fired-up and having fun. His classroom is the center of attention at Anderson Valley and the school administration couldn't be happier. Can this be vocational agriculture?

By Andrew Markwart

STEVE McKay gets his students excited about science. They're excited about cloning plants, testing new horticulture products and engineering better ways to grow food.

This is no easy feat, considering a large share of his students at Anderson Valley High School in Boonville, California, come from low income and foster homes. Most of the kids in foster homes live there after they've been in juvenile detention or come off the street.

What's his secret? He gets students involved in a money-making project on the school's 7-acre land laboratory, then shows where an application of science can turn into more profit for them. "What I've noticed about students lately is that money seems to be a big motivating factor," said McKay. "By getting a return from working on projects on the school farm, they see that science might be a way to increase their profits."

"We have a 50-50 arrangement where the students actually sign up and take ownership in one of the projects on the farm. They get 50 percent of the profits and the other 50 percent goes back to the school.

McKay lets his students focus on areas that interest them. "What I've tried to do is set up a mini-agricultural community, where those students who are really good in science, for instance, will be leading the science projects," he explains. "Those students who like to make money are in charge of managing the farm and those students that just have fun working outside on projects, that's where they can start out."

Students start with basic science experiments such as this insulator quality test. The glass jars are covered with different kinds of insulators and the interior temperature is observed using thermometers.

Class Experiments

The list of projects McKay's students work on sounds like it belongs to a university's agriculture experiment station rather than a small-town high school ag department. Most impressive is the extensive plant tissue culture lab (seen on the cover) where everything from tomato to gooseberry plants are cloned from single cells in a germ-free environment.

His classes are also experimenting with kiwi fruit, which are not widely grown in the U.S., but are of special interest to McKay. Much of his master's of science degree from the University of California—Davis was based on kiwi pollination.

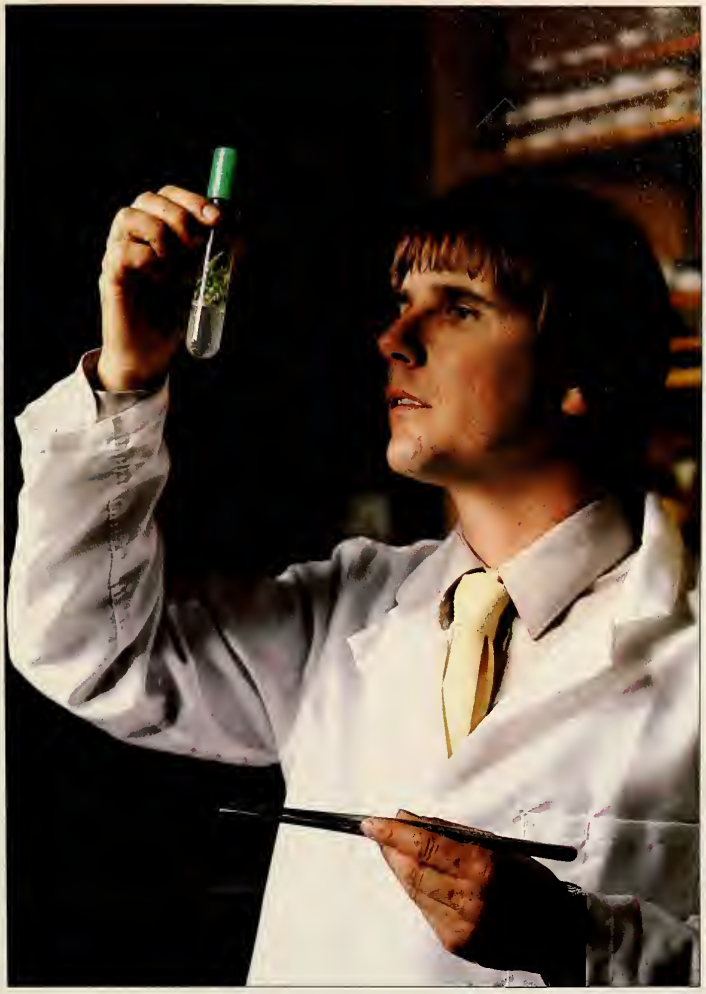
McKay found that bees don't normally like to switch between male and female kiwi plants, which is crucial for pollination to occur. The class has built a trellis that has a male variety growing on a wire slightly above a female plant. As a result, the pollination rate is drastically increased, kiwi production is higher, profits are higher—and all because of some applied science.

The school's greenhouse is a laboratory within itself. Heat sensors have been placed in the root zones of bedded plants to show that keeping the roots warm and lowering the air temperature will save energy costs. They are also testing different kinds of insulations under the plant beds to see which is most efficient at retaining heat.

McKay believes cooperative science projects with the agricultural industry are important. McCalis Grower Supply, a major west-coast greenhouse supplier, has contracted McKay and his crew to do product testing for them. "They want to test polyfilm on the tops of our greenhouses," says McKay. "We've got sensors that can sense the amount of insulation both inside and outside of the greenhouse. We'll see how much light actually is transmitted, how long the plastic lasts and how well it performs. All sensors are linked to an Apple IIe computer in the classroom for constant monitoring and data storage.

The Northrup King seed company is working with the class to determine which tomatoes are best suited for that particular growing area of California. A local winery has also contracted the class to grow grapes for them.

Times have not always been so positive at Anderson Valley High School.



Photos by Bill Stagg

Agri-science Teacher of the Year Steve McKay examines new life derived from a single plant cell. Plant cloning is performed in McKay's classroom laboratory by using plant tissue culture technology.

Five years ago, the situation was a whole different story. For years the school stumbled from one crisis to the next. Parents were angry, citing low standards and a limited and outdated selection of courses. "People were losing confidence in the school," said McKay. "They felt the teachers really didn't care about the students and were incompetent. A lot of that was talk, but it took a lot of public relations to turn that around."

McKay started his own public relations campaign. "Since there weren't that many extracurricular activities, the ag department started getting students recognized for their accomplishments," explains McKay. "The kids started going home and saying they were having fun and they were enthused about their project." McKay set up tours of the agri-science department for the community and the students assumed the role of tour guides.

Attitudes changed, and so did McKay's enrollment numbers. When his program started five years ago, nine students participated. Today, 64 out of Anderson Valley's 92 students are involved in his agriculture program.

McKay's ability to teach agricultural science to his students has not gone unnoticed. He was named "Agri-science Teacher of the Year" at the 59th National FFA Convention last November. McKay was presented a total cash award of $3,500 by the Stauffer Agricultural Products Division of Cheseborough-Pond's Inc., sponsor of the new teacher recognition program.

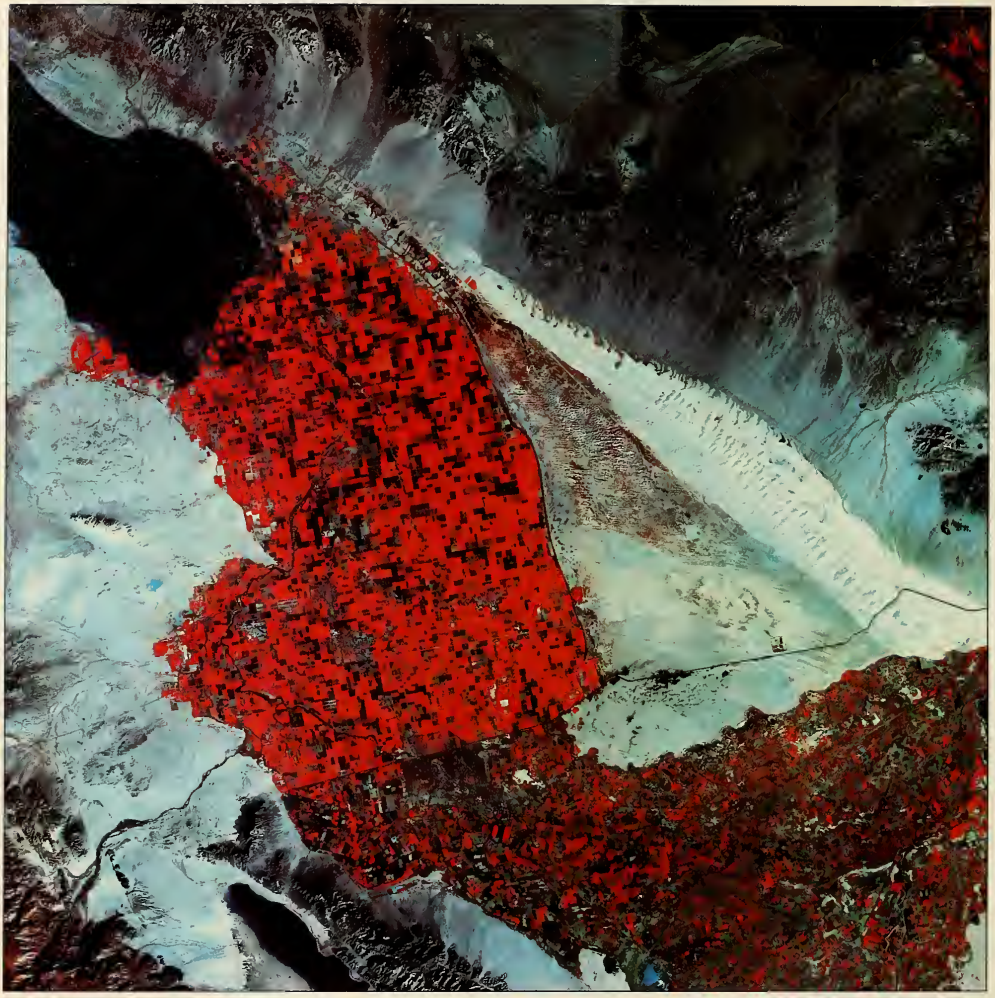
McKay and his students install heat sensors in their greenhouse plant beds. By warming the root zone, overall heat costs can be trimmed.

McKay sees a heightened awareness of science playing a major role in the future of vocational agriculture. "Science will take on a new emphasis. People will realize that agriculture is an applied science.

"In those departments in California where people are remaining really traditional and not changing with the times—not being adaptable—those are the people who are finding their departments are dying. I already see that happening in California."

When asked to give a reason why his program has emerged as one of the most innovative agriscience programs in the country, McKay replied, "When I was in college, I had a lot of these (agriscience) ideas then. People hardly understood what I was thinking about. I remember talking about this to my mother and she said that anything you learn in college usually takes at least ten years to happen. It's been just about that long."

What about ten years from now? "I haven't had time to think about it with everything going on," laughs Steve McKay. •••



This Landsat Thematic Mapper image of the Salton Sea and Imperial Valley in California clearly demonstrates the contrast between irrigation patterns in the U.S. (red area) and Mexico (brown area). Irrigation from the Colorado River feeds the desert, creating crops of lettuce, alfalfa, sugarbeets, wheat and cotton. The Salton Sea, in the upper left corner of the image, was born in 1905-06, when the Colorado broke out of its channels. Landsat imagery is used to monitor irrigation and crop patterns, and help farmers plan and predict each season.

Satellite images of Earth are helping predict crop yields and identify growing problems early. It's . . .

Advice from Above

EVERY night, in homes across the U.S., people watch the local TV weatherman point to cold fronts and swirling winds on a wall-sized image of North America. This picture that helps us understand the weather has only been available since the advent of satellites and their ability to transmit pictures back to us.

Crop producers, ranchers, commodity traders and others are now beginning to harness some of the same space technology to help them make better, more accurate decisions. They are using Landsat satellite images to examine such production variables as crop vitality, insect infestations and freeze damage.

Remote Sensing

The Landsat satellites orbit the Earth at an altitude of 705 kilometers. Their orbits are synchronized with the sun so they pass each point on the planet at about the same time each day.

The pictures, such as the one on the facing page, are called images because they're not photographs. They're really a computer's color-enhanced reproduction of what the satellite's radio-wave sensors have recorded while passing over a particular spot. The entire process is referred to as "remote sensing."

As the satellite repeatedly passes over a region, recording changes in growth and other conditions, a producer can compare the images and decide if there are problems that need to be addressed.

Down to Earth Uses

Oregon farmer Frank Lamb is already using remote sensing to more accurately predict potato yields in the Columbia River Basin. Lamb grows more than 2,800 acres of potatoes in the area. With a high value specialty crop such as potatoes, advance knowledge of market conditions can lead to sizable profits.

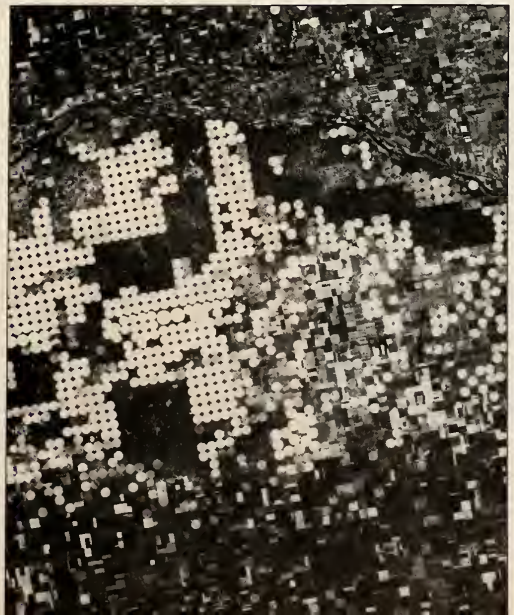
For example, at early harvest time in 1983, potatoes were selling at $80 per ton. Ninety days later the price had risen to $130 per ton because of low yields and poor quality. Lamb said that such a market fluctuation means a $750,000 difference in revenues.

In cooperation with other producers and a local processor, Lamb has formed a company, Cropix, to monitor plant conditions and estimate field acreages in the valley. Although he has been generally pleased with the information, Lamb says the cost is still a bit steep (10 images a year at $665 per image) and the turnaround time is not as fast as he'd like it to be. It now takes two weeks for the information to be processed for Lamb's use.

The satellite technology is also being used in Arizona to catch violators of the state's water laws. Since Arizona is such an arid state, some farmers have irrigated more than their allotment to increase yields. By purchasing Landsat images four times a year, Arizona's Water Resources Department can pinpoint an illegal field of crops anywhere in the state. Getting caught means paying up to $10,000 a day in fines.

Remote sensing is not limited to agricultural data and irrigation spying. It is being used widely in geology and monitoring the effects of urban sprawl on rural and forested areas. Charting maps where land surveying is impossible has been a popular use of the technology.

Like any new technology, it will be a while before remote sensing will be cost-effective for most producers. But in the meantime, you may want to keep an eye on it—since it's keeping an eye on you. •••



Center-pivot irrigation systems create the multi-shaded circles in this Landsat image of the Garden City, Kansas, area. The unharvested winter wheat crop appears in gray, both in the irrigated circles and squares on this composite map. Plowed ground appears black.

The New Ag Professionals

Here's a first-person look at some of the most promising career areas in agriculture

By Michael Wilson

EDITOR'S note: *Agriculture is still a "growth" industry and we don't mean just crops and livestock. Many ag jobs still promise challenging, rewarding careers for dedicated, motivated people.*

We asked four ag professionals to discuss in their own words different aspects of their careers; how they became involved, why they like what they do and prospects for the future.

Farm Management/Finance

Bob Anderson
Trust real estate officer,
Norwest Bank, Des Moines, Iowa

"I was involved in farming as a kid. We had friends who farmed about 1,000 acres and I worked on it in high school. I had a chance to get involved in that farm, and probably end up as owner. It was a difficult decision, but I chose to go to college and study veterinary medicine.

Bob Anderson, at one of the Iowa farms he helps manage.

Photo courtesy AgriFinance magazine

"In college, I found out I did not like science that well. I met a man who helped me realize that I may be more suited for a career working with people. I graduated with a double major in ag journalism and animal science. I worked a summer internship at a radio-television station farm department. After military service, I took a job with Pioneer and later became director of public relations for the beef cattle division. I talked to a friend who encouraged me to get into farm management. So I switched careers and started a job with Doane's, a farm management firm. Today, my work at Norwest Bank gives me responsibility to manage 307 Iowa corn and soybean farms totalling more than 55,000 acres.

"Farm managers are not just rent collectors. The joy of this business is to see improvement in the farm once you take on its management. But if you're really involved, you take a personal interest in the farmer and the farm itself. We are also very concerned about soil conservation.

"I make at least one farm visit a month per farm during the growing season, working with farmers, going over potential problems. You're outdoors on the farms at least two days a week, yet you do have an opportunity to interact in an office.

"We're constantly looking at budgets, potential income, cash flow analysis, marketing and ways to cut costs without sacrificing production. It gets complicated, because of government participation. But computers have made the financial aspects of farm management easier. It's helpful to be interested in finance, but it isn't mandatory.

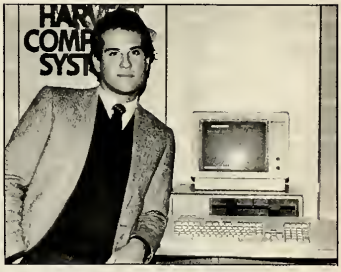
"You have to learn the ropes quickly. The minute you take on a job as farm manager you start making decisions. You've got to be able to make the best possible decision you can—at the time—and live with it. To some people, that's pretty scary.

"There is a bright future for farm management jobs. Farming will continue to be a very complicated business, and when you have that kind of complexity, a manager is an awfully good investment."

Ag High-Technology

Kurt Harter, Director of sales
Harvest Computer Systems
Alexandria, Indiana

"I returned to my family farm after graduating from Purdue with a degree in ag economics in 1981. At the time it seemed like agriculture was at the beginning of a management revolution, helped along by high technology. More farmers were using monitors on planters, combines and spraying equipment. Computers were also beginning to be used on farms. The talk then was that by 1990, over 80 percent of farmers would have farm computers.



Harter sees more farmers accepting computers.

"These expectations raised my interest in computers and how they could be used by farmers in management. I took a job at a computer store and sold computers to all markets. I started looking into companies that were developing software strictly for farming and ranching. Nine months later I accepted this position with Harvest Computer Systems, a farm business software developer. At the time, Harvest had written four different software packages for agriculture that ran on Apple and IBM computers.

"I travel from coast to coast working with dealers, distributors and farmers. I enjoy working with farmers of all types in all areas of agriculture, helping them become better and more efficient producers. Farmers are realizing that more strict management practices are needed to survive in today's troubled times.

"The only down side is the slow growth we have witnessed in ag computing. It has been a struggle to get the farmer to adopt to this new technology.

"Still, the future of ag computing is

very bright. It will not grow by leaps and bounds, but will show steady growth. In the next five to ten years we will see more acceptance of farm computers along with good growth in monitoring devices for drying facilities, environmental control of confinement buildings, computerized feeding facilities and more.

"It is important to have an ag background in ag high-tech jobs. That doesn't mean you must come from a farm, but you must be aware of farming techniques and farmers' needs. We will need people that are specially trained to service farm computers and software systems. We will need technicians and engineers to develop more sophisticated controlling devices for all types of ag machinery and equipment.

"As time goes on, farmers will need to grow with technology in order to compete. We will need people to build, train and service these needs."

Photo by Pioneer Hi-Bred

"The difference between a good sales person and a great one is the amount of information you analyze and use to benefit customers." —Peg Armstrong-Gustafson

Ag Research and Development

Clarence Jentes
Technical service and development specialist, plant products
Dow Chemical, USA, St. Louis, Missouri

"Research has always been exciting to me and testing ideas is fascinating. During FFA projects when I was growing up, I was always comparing alternative ways of doing things.

"Several years ago I heard there wasn't much more to be done in ag research. We had herbicides, insecticides and fungicides to handle most problems. Yet, the DuPont Company recently had approval of ten new herbicides from the discovery of a compound just ten years ago. And Dow has just introduced a new post-emergence grass control product for corn. Genetic engineering promises a new set of questions that only good research can answer. To succeed in today's world market, we must raise more high quality crops at less cost than our world competitors. We can do it, but it will require that we constantly ask, 'Is there a way to do it better?' And then test the alternatives.

"This job gives me a great variety of experiences. I like to meet people and I love the challenge of problem-solving. I am responsible for field research, testing and comparing new ag chemicals used by farmers. Aside from field work, I also coordinate research with state universities and private contractors.

Clarence Jentes coordinates field research and uses many of the same types of equipment farmers use, such as the tractor-sprayer.

"I provide technical support for our labelled products (ag chemicals already on the market). I hold training classes with new salesmen or dealers and meet with dissatisfied farm customers. This can be challenging, because you must find what went wrong, or why the product didn't work. These are usually the most personally satisfying calls too. You feel good when you can show a customer how to use the product to his best advantage.

"Agricultural research has many elements. When a new compound is discovered, much testing is done before it ever gets out of the lab. Toxicology must be done to determine how hazardous it is. Early greenhouse tests identify how it affects pests and crops. It will then go to a company's field station for outdoor tests. Finally, it goes to Field Research and Development for testing and label refinement. Each of these functions require people."

Ag Marketing/Sales

Peg Armstrong-Gustafson
Products analyst, soybeans and wheat
Pioneer Hi-Bred International
Des Moines, Iowa

"My interest in agriculture started in junior high, through a school experience program where we tried several vocational areas. I enrolled in high school vo-ag and FFA, and I never deviated from my goal to become involved in agriculture.

"After high school I studied animal science in college. When I made my first job choice, I decided instead to take a communications job in Pfizer Genetics' seed business. After three months I switched into marketing, working with sorghum, alfalfa and test markets. When DeKalb, Inc., joined with Pfizer, I chose to work with the new company's seed business as sales operation manager. I helped develop sales recognition programs, coordinated administration and worked with compensation. I was involved in all aspects of the sales operation. I then changed jobs and began work here at Pioneer.

"In sales, there are great opportunities for creativity. I think a person working in sales or marketing should have a high "self awareness" of their skills, abilities and what their goals are. To be successful, a person must develop the skill of selling. You must be able to sit down with that customer and identify their goals and needs, highlight some areas that they may not know about and supply them with additional ways to use your product. The difference between a good sales person and a great one is the amount of information you can analyze and use to benefit customers.

"I like the simple foundation that we produce a quality product that can meet customers' needs and provide profitability. It gives me a tremendous sense of self-satisfaction.

"There are sales jobs available for people without college degrees. But the education process never really stops. You will need further training in how to sell your product, no matter what it is.

"The skills I learned in vo-ag and FFA have helped me throughout my career. In FFA, the needs for leadership, organization and skill development were emphasized over and over—and still apply today. We teach decision-making skills in FFA, but there are many adult business people who still don't know how to make decisions." •••

It's an FFA crop program that can, when Kevin Hetrick is distilling it, make the whole Orovada, Nevada, valley smell like an after-dinner mint.

Kevin raises about 24 acres of peppermint. That's enough to fill three 55-gallon drums with peppermint oil, which is enough to flavor about 120 train-car loads of chewing gum.

Kevin Hetrick checks the output of his peppermint oil distillery.

It's an oil crop that sounds like a specialty crop that tastes like candy.

By Rachel Vining

The Peppermint Twist

Peppermint oil is extracted from mint leaves. The Winnemucca FFA member actually distills the oil on the farm, which is, to Kevin, the most interesting part of peppermint production.

During the harvest, peppermint leaves are chopped directly into large iron tubs that are sealed and injected with steam. Steam from the boiler vaporizes all the water and oil in the leaves and creates a mixture that runs through the condensers. After it condenses, or cools, the oil rises to the top of the water and is drained.

Kevin said at this point the oil is 98-99 percent pure and usually doesn't need to be purified any further, although quality does vary. "Oil raised in different areas has different qualities. Differences in temperature, soils, elevations and other factors will give you variations in the oil. And changes in the oil will change the final product," Kevin explained.

He ships his oil in 55-gallon drums to a cooperative seller in Oregon. The coop sells the oil by the pound, rather than volume, to buyers who are satisfied with Kevin's quality and price. Buyers of Kevin's peppermint oil include Colgate and Wrigley's Companies.

For the three years he's been raising mint, Kevin said his oil has been sold for $9.50 a pound, although some areas receive up to $13. Prices have been stable for several years and he expects the market to remain strong in the future, unlike many crops. By making about $250/acre, Kevin said his mint venture has been "pretty profitable so far."

Mint oil starts at a ceiling price which lowers as the quality decreases, so Kevin works hard to keep weed and insect impurities to a minimum. Because the oil is extracted from the leaves, he sprays for any insects that will eat the foliage and decrease his yields.

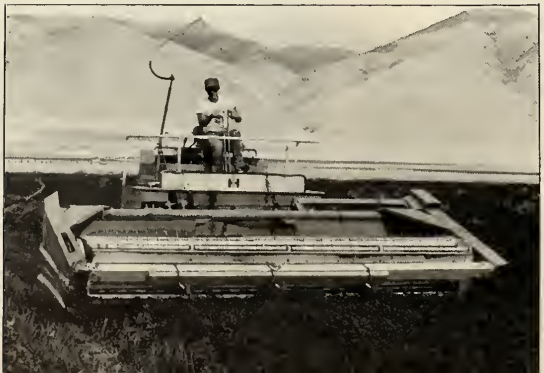
He said raising mint is not too different from raising hay or alfalfa. Mint is a periennal that uses a lot of water, requiring irrigation in Nevada, and demands large amounts of nitrogen.

The large initial investment for mint production is the distillery, which Kevin's father already had from raising and distilling dill. Two years ago Kevin took classes and received a boiler operator's license and now he runs every step of his mint operation.

The high school senior is looking to expand his operation to about 40 acres and attend college crop science classes for a few years. After that, he said, "I'd like to return to farming because I think there'll still be a future there."

Kevin has done well enough so far to have been named the western region oil crop proficiency winner. Although he said mint isn't listed on the FFA oil crop award applicaton, during the proficiency award interviews he had the chance to explain his crop and the special qualities of raising mint.

Because of the final products—candy, chewing gum, mouthwash, medicines—and the small acreage grown, he said peppermint is often considered a specialty crop. But when Kevin's distillery is running 24-hours a day, and the minty smell drifts for miles, just a sniff will tell you, "there's oil in them there leaves." •••



Kevin cuts and windrows peppermint leaves to sun dry in the Orovada, Nevada, Valley.

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AIR FORCE

Highlights of 1986

In 1986, the FFA took a serious look at itself and how it related to a painfully evolving agriculture industry.

Photo by Andrew Markwart

President Reagan spoke to FFA's state presidents July 22 as Rick Malir, national FFA president, left, and Secretary of Agriculture Richard Lyng, right, looked on.

It was a year when all of America watched farmers lose their livelihood during the evening news. We read page-one newspaper headlines about severe drought, expensive government farm programs, and record-breaking crop yields—which had to be stored in make-shift bins because most of last year's crop had not yet been sold. The press covered agriculture more in 1986 than it had in decades, and most of it was negative.

The FFA reacted to the year's events by doing what it does best; finding opportunities. By taking a hard look at the emerging trends in agriculture, coupled with a rapidly changing membership, the FFA organization began moving in new directions. More emphasis was placed on computer technology, agriscience, and the importance of management and marketing skills. As 1986 drew to a close, it was no secret that more change was on the way for FFA in 1987.

Summarized below are some of the most important FFA events of 1986.

Agri-Science Teacher Recognized

For the first time in its 59-year history, the FFA recognized agriculture instructors for teaching science. After a winning teacher was named in each state, three finalists were chosen from each of the four FFA regions. From that group, four national finalists were selected and Steve McKay, of Boonville, California, was named national winner.

McKay received a cash award of $3,000 in addition to an earlier $500 awarded to regional finalists. The new agri-science award was sponsored by Stauffer Agricultural Products Division of Chesebrough-Pond's Inc.

Constitution and Bylaws Committee

FFA's National Constitution and Bylaws were reviewed by a special committee in 1986, in response to a growing awareness that changes were needed in the organization to better address the interests of its members.

Major changes in the organization, such as a name change, must be submitted to the FFA Board of Directors in the form of an amendment to the constitution. The amendment also has to be voted upon by member delegates at national convention. Recommendations from the constitution and bylaws committee will be presented to the board of directors in 1988.

BRIDGE Scholarships

A new college scholarship for handicapped FFA members was unveiled in October, 1986. The Building Rural Initiative for the Disabled through Group Effort (BRIDGE) scholarship will be awarded for the first time in April, 1987. The program will also include awards for FFA chapters that offer assistance to the rural handicapped.

Reagan Addresses State Presidents

On July 22, President Ronald Reagan addressed two capacity-filled rooms of FFA state presidents, state advisors, executive secretaries and Washington Conference participants in the Old Executive Office Building in Washington, D.C. In his speech, the President commented on the difficult farm situation and what the government was doing to aid the agricultural sector.

He also recalled the Great Depression to point out that agriculture had been through harder times and survived. He challenged FFA members to "be true to the values that made this nation great, and they are very simple: faith, family, hard work and freedom."

FFA Foundation Raises Record Contributions

The National FFA Foundation again set a new fund-raising record, securing $2.575 million for FFA projects and members. According to Bernie Staller, executive director of the foundation, the record-level contributions reflected a combination of new sponsor giving and existing sponsors contributing more money. He also said that more former FFA members are contributing. •••

"There's sure a lot more to running a farm these days. I hope my son is going to be up to it."

"My boy's in the farm management program at BJU. From what I've seen so far, I'm sure he'll do just fine."

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Photos by Andrew Markwart

I Cry A Lot

Young adults coping with stress

By Carolyn Dedolph

"Mom and Dad just aren't like they used to be. They're constantly fighting. Dad only gets about four hours of sleep a night. Mom's afraid he's going to fall asleep around the machinery," says Bob Lange, (not his real name), 17, with bitterness in his voice.

"Things are terrible on the farm," he continues. "My older brother and his wife left last month. They couldn't stand the fighting anymore. It just crushed Mom and Dad. My little brother, who's 13, hates the farm. He seems so...hostile to everyone."

"What fighting? We have our disagreements, but no more than anyone else," defends Bob's mom in a separate conversation. "There's nothing wrong with *my* family. We're all very happy on the farm—that is, if, we don't lose it," she nervously jokes, as her worried eyes dart around the room.

"I hate going home on weekends," says Bob's sister, Kim, a 20-year-old University of Wisconsin-Madison dairy science major. "Yet, I feel so guilty about leaving them with so much work to do. God, it's such a mess. If people only knew how screwed up my family is," she sobs, unable to control the tears any longer.

If people only knew. The Langes portray the image of the perfect farm family—successful, respected, hard working. They own 180 acres of fertile Wisconsin land and milk 50 registered Holsteins. And their children hate it.

Author Carolyn Deloph is a former FFA member from Columbus, Wisconsin. She is a junor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, majoring in agricultural education and ag communications.

They are not alone. Although there are no exact figures, stress is drastically affecting many rural young people on the farm. How do they cope with farmwork, homework, peer pressure and parents?

"It isn't easy," says Kim. "I cry a lot."

Roger Williams, health and human services specialist at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, grew up on a farm. He understands the situation, and offers the following advice on how young adults can deal with farm stress.

What is stress?

"Stress, defined, is our internal reactions to things happening in our lives," says Williams, developer of several rural Wisconsin stress programs and support groups. Stress isn't all bad, either. When we live a satisfying life of challenges, we are experiencing good stress, he says.

The enemy is "distress," according to Williams. This drains people physically, emotionally and socially. Distress signs and symptoms vary among young people. They include headaches, ulcers, fatigue, anxiety, insomnia, drug and alcohol abuse, irritability, cynicism, depression and withdrawal, he says.

Occasionally, everyone experiences some of these symptoms. The big concern is when a young person experiences many of them often, says Williams.

Understanding Stress

"The keys for maintaining a healthy relationship with stress are recognizing it, understanding its creation, and taking positive steps to deal with it," he explains.

"Self-induced stress is the type people expreience the most," asserts Williams. "Personality plays a big role in how we handle difficult situations."

Parents, especially when they're under financial pressures, often take their frustrations out on their children. Being too rigid, perfectionistic, or impatient, or having unrealistic expectations, are often reasons for stress in the family, Williams says. The best thing you can do is learn positive ways to handle it.

"Stress, defined, is our internal reactions to things happening in our lives."

Coping with Stress

When times become tough, young people must think of their own needs—not only those of the farm's. Williams recommends these seven approaches for coping with stress.

1. Eat nutritiously, exercise and get enough rest: This sounds like advice from a parent, but studies show that without these habits, your body can develop chemical imbalances that make you feel even worse. Cut down on caffeine and sugar, and increase the amounts of fresh fruit and vegetables you eat. When you get frustrated and need to blow off steam, go for a walk in the woods, a run down the road, or shoot some baskets. Also be sure to get six to eight hours of sleep. Your body needs rest.

2. Thought stopping: When a stressful situation occurs, says Williams, we often "catastrophize" by blowing the situation out of proportion. "By taking the attitude that a certain situation is bad, we affect our feelings. This triggers behavior that usually makes things worse," he explains.

When your brother does something wrong, your first impulse may be to become angry and yell. This only makes the situation worse. Williams says a crucial first step is to stand back and say "Stop!" Then count to ten and express your anger. Of course, that's easier said than done, but it may keep you from saying something you'll later regret.

3. Effective communicaton and conflict resolution: "To deal with anger, we usually bury or blow up over it," says Williams. Both of these approaches are harmful. People need feedback, not criticism. Instead of yelling at your sister for leaving the cow gate open, say "I know we're all in a hurry, but why don't you slow down a little? Let me know if you have too much work and I'll help you out."

4. Find time to have fun: Time is probably one of the most precious commodities young people have, says Williams. If you want to be on the basketball team or in band, go for it. Tell your parents how important it is for you, and then manage your time wisely.

5. Don't be afraid to dream: "There are often incredible pressures to stay on the farm. But, if you don't want to, you have to break away. Each of us needs to dream and set goals for the future," he advises. This is often difficult to do. If you feel trapped in a no-win situation, a three-way conference with your guidance counselor or FFA advisor and parents may work. People really do care.

6. Be supportive: "The most important thing you can do is be available to talk to your family whenever needed. Share your concerns with them. Tell them you love them. Say 'Mom and Dad, I care about you...and I'm worried.' Confront them in a very gentle, caring way. If necessary, contact outside help, such as the extension service, local vocational school, the department of ag, or a friend."

Finally, a word of caution: don't try doing all of these things at once—that would really cause stress in your life, says Williams. Changes need to be gradual. Concentrate on only one or two at a time. For example, try to improve your eating habits and communication skills. Then work on thought stopping, etc.

A walk in the woods can help you relax and give you time to think.

Stress is a very difficult thing to handle. By attempting to use these approaches, you'll be able to cope with stress in a positive way, instead of kicking your dog or punching a wall. "Even though we have problems at home, I feel a lot better after talking with Mom and Dad. It sure beats crying," confides Kim. •••

Jeff Cooksey checks the condition of a milo field near his home of Roggen, Colorado.

Cream of the Crop Producers

There are seven crop award areas in FFA. These are the individuals who excelled at growing them in 1986.

By Andrew Markwart

UNTIL 1985, there was one national FFA proficiency award for crop production. Cotton producers were competing against corn producers who were up against tobacco producers.

Realizing that crop production was too large an area for just one award, the FFA defined seven new areas where national awards could be won. Members can now compete for cereal grain, feed grain, oil crop, fiber crop, specialty crop, diversified crop and forage production proficiency awards. The following are profiles of seven individuals who were the top producers in their crop area during 1986.

Land of Cotton

Most fiber crop proficiency winners have one thing in common— they grow cotton. Allen Lewis, 19, of Halls, Tennessee, is no exception. Allen started his program in 1983 with 10 1/2 acres of cotton and by 1985, it had expanded to 85 acres.

He uses various marketing techniques to sell his cotton, such as the futures market and government commodity loans. He also utilizes the Department of Agriculture's Acreage Reduction Program to manage his program efficiently.

A careful planner, Allen says he would like to become a full partner with his father in five years. "I'm doing this gradually though," said Allen, "in order to keep my debt load as low as possible."

Oil crop winner John Davis of Delaware, Ohio, is using a computer as his main source of current information to market his soybeans. He uses the Ohio Farm Bureau's electronic marketing advisory service (ACRES) to keep on top of cash prices, futures and other vital information. He is also using the computer for accounting.

John is combining this high-technology with no-tillage production techniques to boost his yields while not compromising on soil conservation. Since his father is

president of the Greenbriar Veterinary Service and his mother is the business manager, much of the production responsibilities of the Davis' 1,700-acre grain farm rests on John.

His plans for the future include majoring in animal science at Ohio State University, proceeding on to the College of Veterinary Medicine and joining his parents in their veterinary service. He also wants to keep on growing award-winning soybeans.

Sonny and Share

Jeff Cooksey, feed grain production winner, has found that it's nice to share; especially when you make a profit from it. He grows barley, milo and corn with his grandfather and brother in Roggen, Colorado, about 50 miles northeast of Denver.

"The agreement has been a one-third to two-thirds crop share plan where I pay my grandfather a third of the crop for a landlord's share and I get the rest," said Jeff.

"This past year my brother, grandfather and I went together to purchase 451 acres in a thirds partnership split. Since my grandfather paid most of the principal payment, he received half of the crop and my brother and I split the other half." Eyeing bigger returns, the Cooksey brothers plan to make full payments on the land in the future.

Wheat was the main crop in Ron Lortcher's award-winning cereal grain production program. Ron is from Willard, Ohio, where he also raises corn, soybeans and beef cattle on his family's 650-acre farm. He holds 25 percent interest in the family partnership.

He is a firm believer that good seed begets good yields. "Wheat yields are, in part, determined by the plant's superior genetic potential which is enhanced by using certified seed," said Ron. "I select wheat varieties for yield potential, winter hardiness, insect and disease resistance, and standability that fits my management practices."

Ron is also known for being particular about keeping his machinery fine-tuned. He closely watches sprayer output calibrations, threshing quality in his combine and overall regular maintenance for tractors and the rest of his machinery.

The days of selling grain as soon as it's harvested are over—at least for diversified crops winner Tommy McKenzie. The 19-year-old from Fairhope, Alabama, is trying to take some of the chance out of marketing his soybeans, corn and wheat.

"By erecting storage bins and installing a grain dryer, we are able to hold our goods until the markets look favorable," said Tommy. "Without grain storage facilities, we would be at the mercy of the grain market at harvest time. Through this improved marketing technique, we're able to increase profits."

Favourite Forage

When your father is one of the largest dairy owners in Indiana, marketing your alfalfa and corn silage is no problem problem at all. Such is the case with Tim Favourite, 20, of Pleasant Lake, Indiana. It takes Tim, his parents, his two sisters, and about 30 employees to keep the farm's 620 head of Holsteins milked and fed.

It's the feeding aspect of the operation where Tim has focused his attention, and won the 1986 national forage production proficiency award as a result. The main goal of the Favourites' dairy farm is to get the highest milk production possible from each cow. That means it's Tim's job to raise the highest-quality feed he can, which is no easy task when you're growing over 1,000 acres of alfalfa, almost 2,000 acres in corn silage and another 1,000 in other forages.

Tim manages four of the farm's employees when harvest time arrives to cut the alfalfa, and more importantly, get it into storage. About 400 acres of the farm are irrigated and lagoon water from the dairy is pumped through the system in the fall to fertilize the soil.

Tim Favourite can chop 20 percent more alfalfa per day by using hydraulic wagons that dump the haylage into trucks.

Scott Travis examines some of the 27,714 pounds of burley tobacco he raised in 1986.

Movie theaters must be special to Scott Travis. The specialty crops winner raised 90 acres of popcorn in 1985 that yielded a total of 135 tons. That's a lot of movie munching. Scott sold the popcorn on contract to Word Popcorn Inc., of (what else) Hollywood, Alabama.

Scott's program also included growing 27,714 pounds of burley tobacco, which he sold through a local warehouse under the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Tobacco Marketing Program.

The specialty crops were grown alongside 340 acres of corn, 203 acres of soybeans, 155 acres of wheat, 75 acres of alfalfa and another 75 acres of barley. If the field work wasn't enough, Scott also raises 430 hogs, 31 dairy cows and 30 head of feeder cattle. •••

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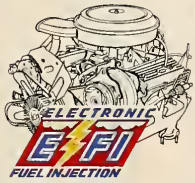

From Vortec V6 right on up to the big available 454 V8. Fuel-injected for sure starts in all kinds of weather. And a burst of power you can count on when the going gets tough.

NEW 350 V8 AVAILABILITY.

The 350 V8's now available in every big Chevy Pickup. And now with the most power of any half-ton pickup: up to 210 HP and 300 lbs.-ft. torque.

The more you expect of a pickup, the more you want to lean on the trucks more farmers work with than any other make.

A big fuel-injected Chevy.

NOTHING WORKS LIKE A CHEVY TRUCK

The Challenge: Careers in Outdoor Recreation

By Mike Stanton-Rich

IMAGINE yourself in a challenging career that not only uses your abilities in agriculture, but utilizes your skills with people. Outdoor recreation is a growing career field in this country, and trends point to expanding opportunities in the future.

Projections

The demand for recreation areas and facilities has increased considerably in the last decade, and projections are for even greater growth. The U.S. population is expected to about double between the years 1950-2000, and outdoor recreation participation is expected to triple during the same time period. Also, as the nation continues to become more urbanized, the need for recreational outlets away from crowded cities will rise.

The President's Commission on Americans Outdoors, whose report will be made final in early 1987, was convened to explore the nation's outdoor recreation needs and propose ideas that would meet increasing demands. Early releases from the commission suggest that increased funding for outdoor recreation jobs, facilities and programs will be priorities for the President to consider. The report will most likely include suggestions for developing a more extensive, better educated, outdoor recreation profession. Many recreation professionals think that the commission's report will point toward increased opportunities in the field.

You might ask, "What kinds of jobs are available in outdoor recreation?" Presently, federal, state and local governments are involved in hiring outdoor recreation personnel, as well as many private agencies. Jobs range from outdoor management positions in rural areas to office-related settings in major cities. Future outdoor recreation personnel will need skills with both outdoors and people.

Working for Uncle Sam

Some opportunities in the federal government are with the National Park Service, the United States Forest Service, the Fish and Wildlife Service and the Soil and Conservation Service. State governments have similar opportunities through state park and forest agencies. Local governments are beginning to emphasize outdoor recreation across the country to keep up with increasing recreation demands. Opportunities for employment in the private sector are also on the rise, which offers more personalized recreation experiences for a growing number of consumers. More jobs should also open up in wildlife protection and conservation agencies.

Some examples of positions in outdoor recreation that involve working with people and require outdoor skills are: environmental interpreter, park naturalist, fisheries specialist, forester, campground manager, park ranger, public zoo manager and wildlife conservationist. As you can see, the opportunities are diverse and all can utilize a background in agriculture.

A Degree Helps

Most positions in outdoor recreation require some amount of education beyond high school, and it is to your advantage to have a college diploma. Some junior colleges offer associate degrees in special fields such as forest technology or wildlife management.

A bachelor's degree in recreation or natural resources management is required by most government agencies for employment. For further specialized careers in forestry, land management or administration, an advanced degree might be essential. Most educational experiences beyond high school give you an overview of the career possibilities open in the field, and many offer valuable learning experiences through internships and field placements.

For more information about career opportunities in outdoor recreation, consult your school or local library. Most have resources about career choices that would be helpful. County extension agents should have access to addresses and information concerning all of the opportunities mentioned above. Another good source of information is your state land grant college. Most have departments of recreation or natural resources management that should be very helpful in providing information. Take the challenge—discover outdoor recreation as a career! •••

Photo by Richard Frear

The public's growing demand for leisure areas points to more job opportunities for today's ag student.

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NFF

Hot Opportunities in the Baking Industry

With an intense 19-week program studying baking chemistry, ingredient properties and new technologies, there's no room for creampuffs at the American Institute of Baking.

"When I first meet the students, I apologize to them. I say 'We're going to work you harder than you've ever worked in your life. I'm sorry, but we're going to cram two years of study into 19 weeks. We're going to have you in school from 8 in the morning until 5 at night—and you'll have 6-8 hours of homework following that.'"

You expect to hear that kind speech from the head of a law or medical school or maybe an Air Force fighter pilot instructor, but the previous quotation is from Dr. Darrell Brensing, vice president in charge of education for the American Institute of Baking (AIB) in Manhattan, Kansas. That's correct, a *baking* institute.

Why would a school that teaches baking be that tough on its students? Because it is a technical institute that was created for and paid by the baking industry. Their objective is to train people specifically to be baking specialists.

Fifty representatives from across the baking industry, from companies such as the Continental Baking Company and International Multifoods Corporation, serve as the institute's educational advisory board. Unlike public colleges, this advisory board decides what is to be taught at AIB because it is *their* institute serving *their* industry.

Investments and Rewards

Many of the students that attend AIB are sponsored by their employers. By the time the students' bosses pay for their tuition, living expenses, regular salary, and salary for a temporary replacement, their company has invested between $25,000 and $30,000 in their baking education. That's why classes run all day and homework can last half the night.

Although the 19-week courses are intense and often stressful, the rewards are worth the effort declares Brensing. He said graduates often start out making $20-25,000 a year, and some well-experienced graduates have started between $30-35,000. Besides the money, there is also respect. Only graduates of the American Institute of Baking are refered to as "baking technologists."

According to Brensing, there aren't enough qualified people to operate the 18,000 retail bakeries in the U.S., and another 18,000 in-store bakeries—the ones you see in supermarkets now. Because baking, like farming, has become so science and business oriented, it needs people who understand chemistry, biology, nutrition and complex electronic equipment.

AIB graduate Chris McManaman measures the torque resistance, or strength of a dough sample, by using an instrument called a farinograph.

Scientific Baking

There are two main programs of study at AIB; the 19-week "Baking Science and Technology" course and "Bakery Maintenance Engineering" course which was added in 1981.

The baking science and technology course teaches students the "why's" of baking. They're taught the chemical reactions that take place when ingredients are mixed together and the bacteriology of yeast activity that makes dough rise. With this knowledge, the students will be able to troubleshoot production problems when they are in charge of a bakery.

Once the basics are mastered, the students learn the different production methods used in bread and roll production and cake and pastry products. They're also taught baking safety, mechanics and management.

The Hardware

The bakery maintenance engineering course trains students to repair and maintain the complex machinery used in bakery production. They are instructed in welding, air conditioning, refrigeration, electrical troubleshooting, and the reading of blueprint and electrical schematics.

According to Brensing, the new, sophisticated machinery has made the old handyman obsolete today. "We don't need the guy with the grease rag and dirty shirt that only knows which end of the wrench to hold on to. We need somebody that can work computers and understands electronics and microprocessor-controlled circuits."

Although AIB grades its students and is an accredited institution, which means students can receive government student loans, Brensing emphasizes that studies at AIB should supplement a college education, not be a substitute for one.

In fact, to enter AIB, you must either have three years of commercial baking experience, a college degree in a related field or successfully complete a 50-lesson correspondence course, which takes about a year.

With an average of 20 openings out of the 72 student capacity going unfilled each term, Brensing says the opportunities await young people—especially females. Only four to five females usually enroll each term, when "half of the class should be female," says Brensing.

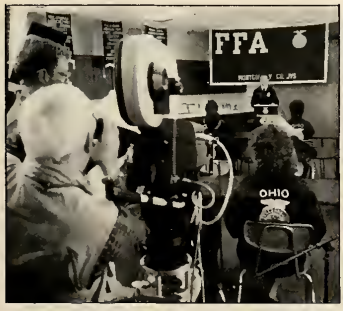
If a person's future were like a business, studying at AIB would be a sound, long-term investment, concludes Brensing. "They go through 'boot camp' for 19 weeks, but 19 weeks is a short amount of time in a person's life. You're not talking four or six years, you're talking 19 weeks. I've never seen any program in the world that can be such a quick turnaround on investment to somebody as AIB." •••

"We were up each morning at 5:30," recalls Darren Kittleson, Wisconsin FFA president, shown pollinating a flowering gloxinia. "The director had me repeat the scene over and over, until everyone was satisfied."

Photostory

Lights, Camera, FFA!

Unlike the other FFA members in the commercials, Dave Collins of Arcanum, Ohio, wasn't acting. Dave, shown here conducting a chapter meeting, is really chapter president at the Montgomery County Joint Vocational School where the filming took place.



FOUR days of on-location filming introduced several FFA members to the glamour—and drudgery—of television commercial production. Five FFA members were flown to Dayton, Ohio, last October to appear in two commercials produced by Monsanto Agricultural Company. The commercials appeared during prime time for six weeks in the Midwest during November and December.

The purpose of the television commercials was to generate a positive, upbeat look at agriculture, according to Dave Smith, a Monsanto spokesman. "One hears about the depressed farm economy and the demise of the family farm each day," said Smith. "It's time to generate enthusiasm and optimism about agriculture."

The FFA members featured in the commercials were: Bill Belzer of Albia, Iowa; Dave Collins of Arcanum, Ohio; Kerri Hames of Norman, Oklahoma; Darren Kittleson of Mount Horeb, Wisconsin; and Cara Nick of Manhattan, Kansas. Former national officer Mike Jackson, now president of Agri Business Group also appeared in the commercials.

Monsanto is donating the spots to FFA for use in the organization's 1987 public service announcement (PSA) television campaign. Deere & Company sponsored FFA's primary television PSA for 1987. •••

What the public will see in FFA's television PSA, sponsored by Deere & Company, is an agriculture instructor teaching science to four Maryland FFA members (right). What they won't see was the detailed production work by producer Paul Ralmondi and his crew (below).

Photos by Bill Stagg

The Year of the Deere

John Deere Celebrates 150 Years in Agribusiness

DEERE & Company, one of America's oldest and largest farm and industrial equipment manufacturers is celebrating its 150th year of business during 1987. America's growth in the past 150 years has been hurried along by the innovation and efficiency in agriculture, and John Deere has been a constant in the industry all the while.

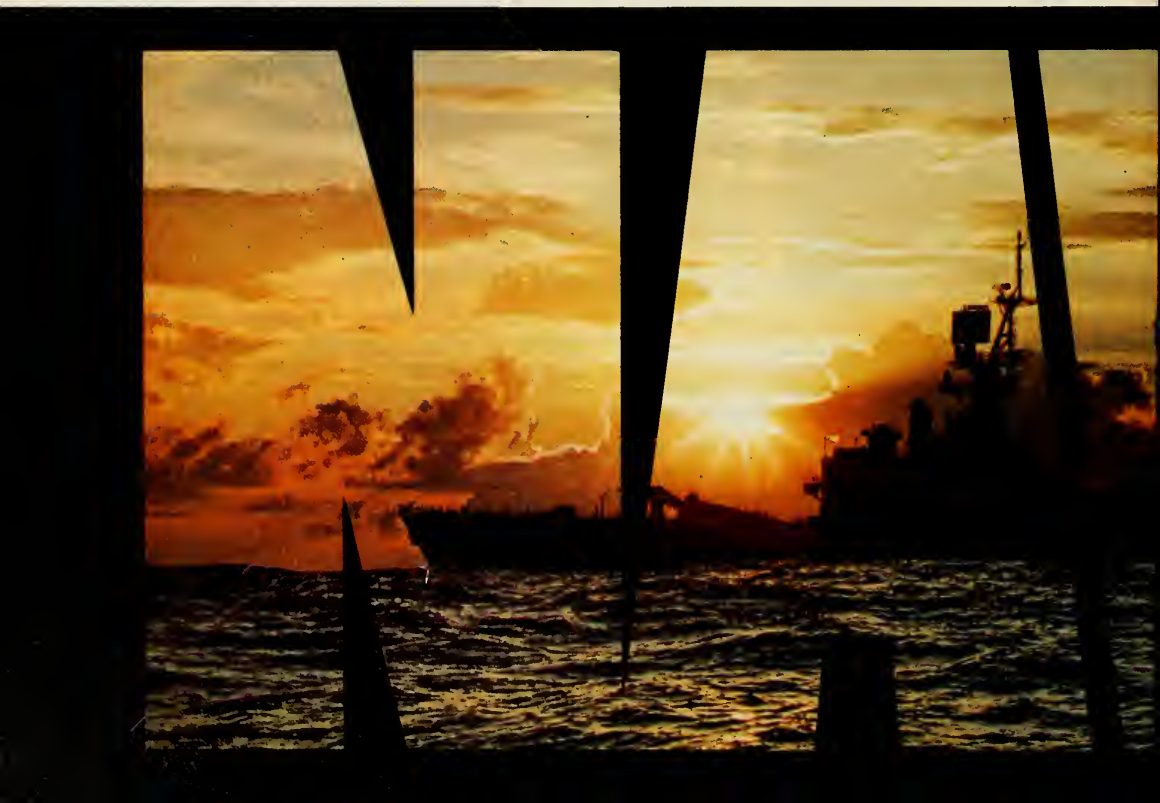
In 1837, a 33-year-old blacksmith named John Deere developed a plow that could shed the sticky prairie earth of the Midwest. This was a major milestone for pioneering farmers and an important point in American history.

Deere's company sold mainly walking plows until the late 1800s, when the product line grew to include corn planters, stalk cutters, hay rakes, wagons, buggies and even bicycles. The company survived the Great Depression of the early 1930s by carrying debtor farmers as long as possible.

During World War II, Deere made various war products, including tank transmissions, military tractors, ammunition and aircraft parts. Since then, the company has grown into a multi-national corporation, employing 37,620 people worldwide. Over 71 percent of the employees work in the U.S. and Canada.

Deere has 12 manufacturing plants in the U.S., three in Germany, two in France, and one each in Canada, Spain, South Africa and Argentina.

Deere & Company have also been involved with the FFA and vocational agriculture since the 1920s and has been a sponsor of the FFA Foundation since it was formed in 1944. Chairman Robert A. Hanson was presented with the Honorary American Farmer degree during the 1986 National FFA Convention. Hanson called FFA members, "the trustees of posterity... the human capital that is going to fill agriculture's wide array of business and scientific needs." •••



Teenage Farm Managers

While most 17-year-olds are busy with sports, cars or friends, members of the Hampshire, Illinois, FFA Chapter have one additional topic in mind—the day-to-day operation of a 300-acre grain farm.

While most of their peers might be attending the Friday night football game, these guys are harvesting crops or setting up a grain dryer. They have been hired as farm managers for the Max McGraw Wildlife Foundation.

From an educational standpoint, how better to get "hands on" experience than to give the students the job. After more discussion, the McGraw Foundation agreed to hire the Hampshire school district, and specifically, the Hampshire vo-ag department to assume the role of farm manager for their 300-acre grain farm.

Three senior FFA members, Robert Swanson, Brad Kriegel and Ed Hartmann, were interviewed and given the responsibilities of the project. The three formed a management team responsible for the day-to-day operation of the farm in addition to short-term and long-term planning, record keeping, purchasing, marketing and equipment and building maintenance.

FFA supplies management skills and labor and the McGraw Foundation provides a full line of machinery and all operational expenses.

The students have completed one growing season. They planted and harvested 180 acres of corn and soybeans, harvested 40 acres of wheat and 36 acres of hay ground, took care of chemical and fertilizer application on the acreage and managed 20 acres of government set-aside.

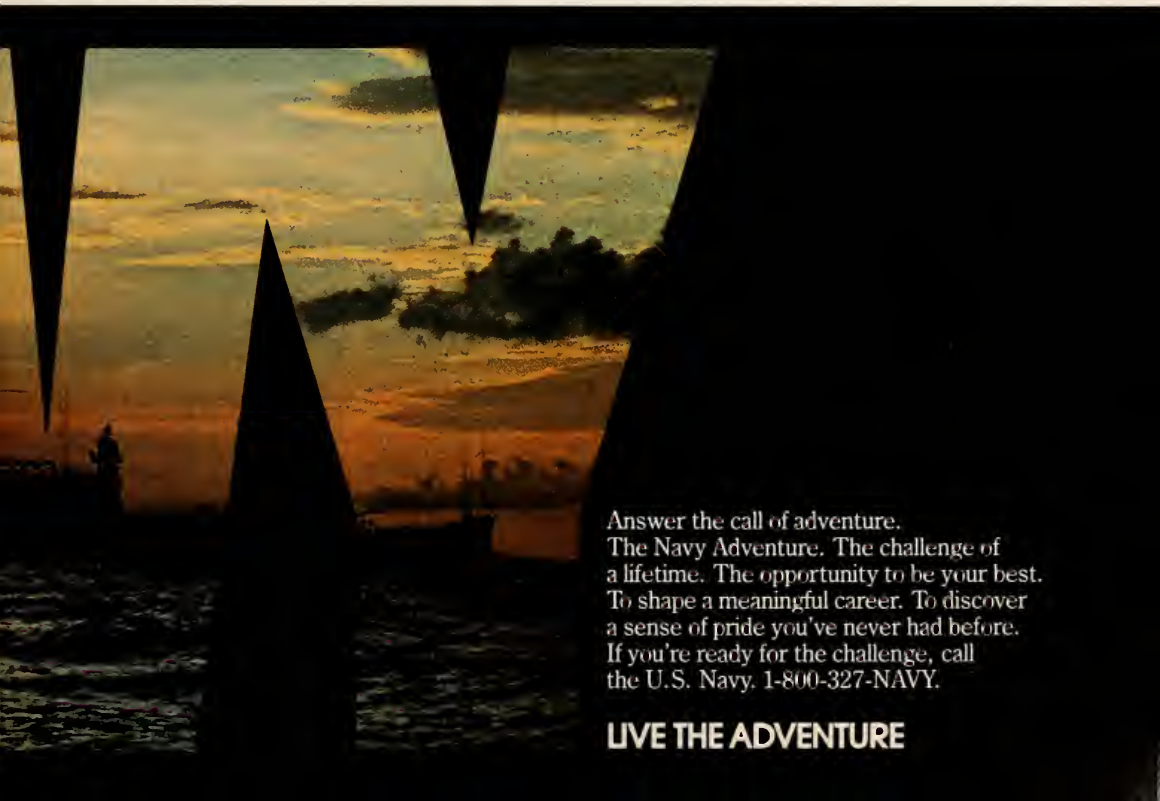
The 300-acre farm operation offers endless production, management, conservation and marketing experiences for the management team plus other members in the chapter. They had corn, soybeans and wheat this year.

"They aren't just loading hay racks or pulling grain wagons while dad runs the equipment," stated Advisor Joe O'Kane. "They are the ones who calibrate, operate and repair the planter, sprayer, combine, forage machines and all the other equipment. I help when necessary, but for the most part, the students do the work."

The students are members of the ag co-op class at Hampshire High School which requires them to attend school in the morning, but allows them to work at the farm in the afternoon. During the summer months, the students spent practically every day at the farm.

Part of the program includes the farming of the ground with the conservation of the land and wildlife in mind. The Wildlife Foundation is involved in many research projects comparing agricultural practices, wildlife habitat and how the two can coexist. "This really gives the students an awareness and appreciation for local wildlife," stated Advisor O'Kane.

The McGraw project has created many benefits for the Hampshire FFA. Other vo-ag classes are able to use the equipment and resources when studying particular subject matter. *(Cheri Snialek, Reporter)* •••


Answer the call of adventure.
The Navy Adventure. The challenge of a lifetime. The opportunity to be your best. To shape a meaningful career. To discover a sense of pride you've never had before. If you're ready for the challenge, call the U.S. Navy. 1-800-327-NAVY.
LIVE THE ADVENTURE

News, Notes, and Nonsense from Everywhere

Chapter Scoop

by Jack Pitzer

Leslee Janss, chairman of the public relations committee for the **Neosho,** MO, FFA painted a 4-foot by 4-foot "Neosho's FFA Welcomes You" sign for outside the vocational building.

N-N-N

FFA and FHA worked together to sponsor a hog roast and square dance for the **Black River,** OH, school district and 270 folks attended.

N-N-N

After the Greenhand initiation at **Twin Springs,** VA, there was a dance and refreshments.

N-N-N

Meridian, ID, held its annual straw haul for the fair. They moved 1,700 bales. It's a big money-maker for the chapter.

N-N-N

Kim Hopple of **Cumberland Valley,** PA, FFA has earned the state FFA degree and Kim's parents received a special parents' award for having three sons/daughters earn the degree.

N-N-N

Douglas, OR, members visited the All Sciences Field Day at Oregon State University this fall. Then they stayed on campus for a ball game.

N-N-N

Dorman, SC, has begun to talk up their BOAC idea to build a war memorial for their county. They hope to have it ready for dedication on Memorial Day.

N-N-N

A first for **Prague,** OK, was their "steak out" sponsored by Nichol's Foods. Advisor *DeWitt* was head cook for the 300 steaks served with baked 'taters and sweet corn.

N-N-N

Dan Gus has organized a raffle for the dad's night meeting of the **Kuna,** ID, FFA. List includes a rifle, miniature TV, gift certificates and a belt buckle.

N-N-N

Port Allegany, PA, honored their retiring ag teacher, Mr. *Osani,* for his 32 years of service.

N-N-N

Members of the **Rouge River, OR,** FFA are starting a 4-H club to get younger kids off to a good start and be ready to get into FFA.

FFA members in **Hudson,** FL, sold plants—figs, crotons and ficus—at a local flea market.

N-N-N

Higginsville, MO, Chapter has grown from 26 members to 60 members for 1986-87.

N-N-N

Tiffani Watson, Shelly Forester, Kandi Keith, Nathan Larsen and *Tony Frei* of the **Royal,** WA, FFA placed second (for the second year) in the state potato judging contest which included potato grading and judging seed potatoes. They also gave oral reasons.

N-N-N

Officers *Brack Bivens* and *Jeff Johnson* organized a turkey shoot as part of a chapter meeting program for **Midland,** TX, FFA. Prior to the shoot the members attended a regular meeting to hear a presentation by the sheriff's office on gun safety.

N-N-N

Tony Williams reports that the **Brookland,** AR, FFA officers, advisors and their families spent an October weekend hunting and riding horses.

N-N-N

A Halloween dance for **Old Fort,** OH, FFA was organized by the recreation committee, Chairman *Jake Whitman;* and all proceeds from the dance went to the children's hospital.

N-N-N

Ephrata, WA, Chapter's 25 Greenhands more than doubled the size of the chapter to 45.

N-N-N

The main attraction on the **Douglas,** OR, FFA float in the melon festival was a living scarecrow. *Heather Colwell* had the honors.

N-N-N

Trigg County, KY, FFA operated its annual sorghum molasses making demonstration for about 2,000 folks. FFA ended up with 75 gallons of molasses.

N-N-N

Canyon, TX, members benefit from the hard work of the chapter's newsletter editors.

N-N-N

An annual welcome freshmen picnic is organized by **Rockville,** CT, FFA. After the meal there is a session for parents and for members.

They used six riding lawn mowers to pull the **Centralia,** MO, float in the homecoming parade.

N-N-N

Hard work of 150 FFA members and parents made 170 gallons of apple butter in **Shenandoah Junction,** WV.

N-N-N

DeKalb, IL, FFA planted young trees in a local forest preserve plus added picnic tables and park benches.

N-N-N

A hunter safety course has been organized for members of the **Acadiana,** LA, FFA.

N-N-N

After the county fair, **Springdale,** AR, members cleaned up and earned $500.

N-N-N

Elroy, WI, members are eligible for a trophy for the biggest rack brought in during the deer hunting season.

N-N-N

Members of the **Northome,** MN, FFA can earn money for their FFA dues by pruning trees in the chapter's pine plantation for two hours.

N-N-N

Money made from the **Pinedale,** WY, raffle of a registered Quarter Horse filly will go for scholarships.

N-N-N

Robertson FFA members from Las Vegas, NM, attended a bull sale to practice their judging skills.

N-N-N

According to *Gayla Bigler,* reporter for **Snowflake,** AZ, FFA, they made $800 on a homecoming barbeque.

N-N-N

It was at the annual picnic for Alumni, FFA members and their families, that **Hoven,** SD, recognized retiring ag teacher *Huber* and welcomed new teacher *Steiner.*

N-N-N

Carson Valley, NV, is forming a new Alumni Affiliate.

N-N-N

Alex, OK, has extended an arm-wrestling championship challenge to the **Chickasha,** OK, FFA.

N-N-N

Keep up the good work. Lots of responses last issue. Keep thinking of good, new, or unusual ideas to share via Scoop. It doesn't hurt to promote your chapter!

JAYE HAMBY: FINDING TIME FOR SUCCESS

Finding time to succeed has never been a problem for Jaye Hamby, the 1986 FFA National Home and Farmstead Improvement Award winner.

The Benton, Tennessee, FFA member found time during high school to serve as the manager/statistician for his school's football and baseball teams, was elected junior class vice president, won a 4-H state public speaking championship, and was valedictorian of his class at Polk County High School.

In addition, Jaye served as president of his FFA chapter and district association. This year the University of Tennessee — Knoxville, freshman is president of the state FFA association. Jaye's career objectives are to earn his degree in agricultural education and agribusiness and then return to the Benton area as a secondary vo-ag teacher. He also wants to continue raising sheep on the family farm.

As part of his FFA Home and Farmstead Improvement program, Jaye implemented an energy and soil conservation program on his family's farmstead. He also designed and helped construct a shop and sheep barn for his Suffolk sheep, getting involved in numerous electrical, safety, and carpentry projects.

Jaye's father, before he died in 1985, was instrumental in getting Jaye involved in FFA. "He instilled in me a desire to be in agriculture," Jaye says, adding that the FFA program and his vo-ag instructor, Clay Swartout, allowed him to continue toward his goals.

How did Jaye find time to be so active in so many different activities? The enthusiastic FFAer says, "When you enjoy doing something, you find time. I also looked at much of what I was doing as a recreational activity. It wasn't work!"

As a sponsor of the National FFA Agricultural Proficiency Award program, The Upjohn Company takes pride in its commitment to agriculture and the opportunities and leadership experience this program provides. Upjohn is committed to supporting and encouraging the efforts of young people like Jaye and his fellow FFAers as they dedicate their lives to improving American farms and rural life.

FFAer Jaye Hamby's home and farmstead improvement projects included landscaping (left), raising Suffolk sheep (center), and electrical installations and repair (right).

Upjohn TUCO ASGROW

Upjohn, TUCO, and Asgrow Organizations
Agricultural Division of The Upjohn Company
Kalamazoo, Michigan

Plant Stress Under the Gun

New technology helps producers measure irrigation needs

WHAT looks like an elaborate "laser tag" set is really a new in-field plant stress monitor which helps farmers determine their irrigation needs.

The Scheduler, developed by Standard Oil Engineered Materials Company, measures plant stress using an infrared thermometer and sensors for air temperature, relative humidity and sunlight intensity.

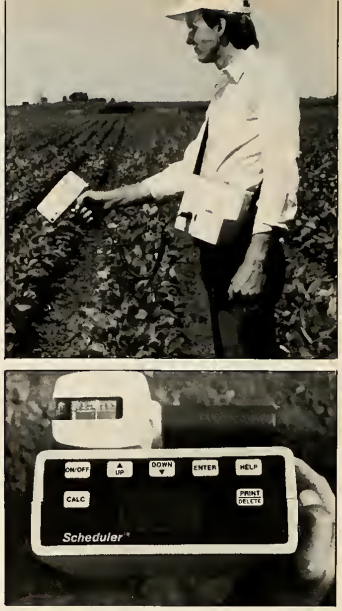
As carbon-dioxide enters a leaf and water evaporates for the leaf, the plant is transpiring. The small pores on the surface of leaves (stomata) regulate this transpiration by opening and closing. The stomates constrict or completely close when the plant is under stress and this slows or stops transpiration.

As transpiration slows, the leaf temperature rises (relative to the surrounding environment). The Scheduler plant stress monitor measures those minute changes in leaf temperature and interprets them as the stress index. Plant stress is detected three to five days before crop yield is negatively affected.

"The Scheduler detects a plant that is not transpiring at an optimum rate," explained Dr. Bronson Gardner, one to the product's developers and scientist in charge of field trials. "A majority of the time, it is simply stress due to the lack of water, which indicates the need for irrigation, but there are times when the plant will undergo stress due to over irrigation, disease, insect damage and nutritional deficiencies."

"If there is sufficient available soil moisture, and the plant continues being stressed after an initial reaction to being watered, then you know there is another problem. In this instance, the Scheduler is being used as a diagnostic tool," he said.

The battery operated Scheduler contains a computer program to calculate the crop stress, provide a readout and store information. A graphic readout shows the pattern of plant stress at it develops. Data for up to 30 individual fields during a 15-day period can be retained in the Scheduler's memory. By linking to an external computer/printer, a permanent record can be retained or a data base established. It is also programmable for numerous crops. •••



A plant stress reading (above, top) is taken by pointing the plant stress monitor at a crop's leaves or canopy.

The graphic display on the screen of the Scheduler shows how crop stress changes in a field during a 15-day period.

AQHA Salutes Lydee Cassel

National FFA Horse Proficiency Award Winner

Leslie Sowder, Public Relations Assistant for the American Quarter Horse Association, congratulates Lydee Cassel of Hummelstown, Pennsylvania, winner of the 1986 National FFA Horse Proficiency Award.

Congratulations
Lydee Cassel

The American Quarter Horse Association salutes your efforts, and those of this year's regional, state and chapter winners. Through the leadership and management skills you've shown in FFA, we know the equine industry is in good hands.

Your commitment to excellence is our commitment to the future.

The World's Most Versatile Horse
AQHA
American Quarter Horse Association
Dept. FFA • Box 200 • Amarillo, Texas 79168
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National FFA Horse Proficiency Award

FFA Week Remembered

A former FFA member returns to the days of official dress and radio interviews.

By Rachel Vining

JUST a few years ago I was a somewhat-timid FFA member talking to newspaper reporters, civic clubs, a radio station manager, grade school students and a noon TV show. It was all a part of what our chapter, back in Richmond, Kansas, (pop. 500), did for National FFA Week.

Our first step was to dig out the stuff sent to us from the National FFA Center—you know what it's like trying to find something on your advisor's desk. We finally found the FFA Week Idea Booklet which got us thinking through the whole project.

As we sat around the ag class at Central Heights High School and brainstormed, Mark Wichman, our chairman, delegated all responsibility. Eddie "Mr. Penmanship" Lee wrote ideas on the chalkboard. Somewhere in the confusion, I was volunteered to do all the running around.

The Media Blitz

As chapter reporter, I contacted the local newspapers and radio station to see if they would like a few stories or interviews.

The newspaper reporter visited the shop, checked out some of the projects, talked to our advisor and a few members and wrote three stories covering local FFA activities. I also wrote a short story and they gave me a byline in the paper. The reporter also used some of the FFA Week art work (from the idea booklet) for the newspaper.

I also talked to the radio station manager (who was a lot nicer than I thought a manager would be) and we set up a time to tape an interview at the station. When we arrived at KOFO (in official dress, of course), he showed us around the station. In the recording booth, he made us feel a lot more comfortable by joking around and asking us about the FFA.

The interview turned out pretty good and you'd be surprised how many people listen to the local a.m. station.

So This Is Television

The highlight of FFA Week was being on WIBW-TV's Midday in Kansas with Kelly Lenz. This is the noon show my dad has watched everyday since soybean prices were put on TV.

We never thought we'd actually get on TV, but someone suggested we give it a try. Again, I (very nervously) called the station, asked for the farm director and explained who we were and why we were calling. Then I asked if they needed any interviewees during that week. Either we were really impressive or news must have been slow. We got a spot.

As Mark and I drove to Topeka, we reviewed some basic FFA facts and figures and tried to think of questions we might be asked. We weren't too nervous until we saw Dave, the weatherman. Wow, these were real people and this was real TV.

The farm director met us, we visited briefly and then he led us into the studio and our seats on the set. In a few minutes we were all done and several thousand people had seen our blue jackets and heard about FFA Week! We even remembered (I think) to watch Mr. Lenz and not the TV monitors.

Back Home

During FFA Week we also wanted to "show off" FFA within our school and reach our local communities. So we wore official dress to school one day and set up displays in school, local stores and the co-op—that's where everyone stops in Richmond.

The officers gave a parliamentary procedure demonstration at the local Lions Club meeting and one of the members gave a speech. The Lions were impressed. During the week at school we gave a short Food For America program to third-grade students.

We also visited with our principal and several teachers about FFA—especially the ones who didn't appreciate us missing classes for FFA trips. These contests and activities are great leadership and learning experiences, and FFA Week was our chance to convince the band director of this, or at least try.

The week was our chance to tell a lot of people about FFA. It was work, but it was fun, and after awhile, we could tell that more people in our area knew about FFA. That made all the phone calls, extra meetings and thank-you note writing worthwhile. Besides, we made Eddie write the thank-you notes. •••

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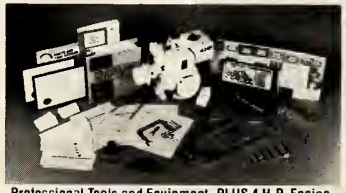

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Delmar Bell Hopes to Reach Out Again

Photo by Bonnie Jeffrey

Delmar Bell holds a miniature tractor using his new electronic right arm. Funds are still being raised for the second arm.

HAPPINESS—for most people—has no price tag.

But it does for Delmar Bell.

The 23-year-old Edgar County man is hoping that his family and friends will succeed in raising $80,000 to buy electronic limbs to replace the arms he lost after an electric shock burned them beyond use two years ago.

Although he dreams of the day he'll wear the more functional electronic arms, he has learned to cope with his situation. He can write with his mouth or his feet, and by manipulating the levers with his feet can do fierce battle in a video game on the television screen in his home.

He also helps on the family farm, tending to cattle and driving tractors with his feet or knees.

"I can mow and run the farm tractor to plow or disk," he said. "I do have trouble when it comes to hooking up the hydraulic hoses or repairing things. I can't do that yet."

His love of farming and his desire to be independent again is what fuels his dream for electronic arms, dreams that help him suppress memories of the morning of November 6, 1984.

While working on a farm north of Paris, Bell and Ray Cash were moving an auger, a large farm implement used to transfer grain from a truck or wagon into a storage bin.

"We were moving the auger from one bin to another," Bell said. "Ray was guiding the auger as I was pushing it. He guided it into a 7,200-volt live wire. They said it killed him instantly and it knocked me unconscious."

After regaining consciousness, Bell tried to get to a truck and call for help. He couldn't move his arms or get the truck door open. He turned back and saw Cash lying across the hopper of the auger.

The fuse in the transformer feeding the power line had blown out, and Bell, pulled him off the auger using his feet.

Bob Cash, Ray's father, found the men. An ambulance took Bell to Paris Community Hospital. A helicopter later flew him to the Springfield Memorial Hospital burn unit where seven surgeries, including amputation, were performed.

Patches of skin from Bell's upper legs were grafted to his left side, from the bottom of his rib cage to above his collarbone. Third degree burns covered 23 percent of his body.

Madonna Bell, Delmar's mother, said the doctors expected his kidneys to fail as burned tissue broke away internally and passed through his kidneys and bladder. Just as he miraculously survived the electrical shock, Bell made it through the first critical hours and days and began to recover.

While in intensive care, Bell consumed 6,000 calories daily. The huge doses of ice cream and enriched milk shakes helped his body build up resistance to infection.

Recovery was quick. His hospital stay, expected to last 12 weeks, ended after four weeks.

His parents and brother, Darrell, camped for days at a time in the hospital lounge. His fiancee, Lori Laufman, left her job for a month and moved into a house across from the hospital.

"The hardest part was when he was in the hospital," Laufman said. "the only thing you could do for him was be there."

When Bell left the hospital and moved into his family's home southeast of Paris, Laufman moved in with him to help provide the care he needed. "He had a lot of open wounds. He had to soak in the tub for an hour each night," she said. For four months, Bell required bandage changes twice a day.

Therapy has kept muscles and tendons strong, controlled build-up of scar tissue and stimulated nerve endings.

Meanwhile, up to $100,000 in hospital bills have piled up and have not been paid. There has yet been no insurance settlement from the accident, nor has Bell received Workman's Compensation.

But the family is still working to win a settlement and state assistance in the effort to buy the electronic arms.

"When the insurance didn't come through, the lawyers said to go through political channels," Bell's mother said. "Well, we've done that and now the congressmen say they are sick and tired of receiving letters. We've got their attention, but things are at a standstill."

Mrs. Bell disagrees with the bureaucratic logic that has so far denied her son state assistance. "The state of Illinois doesn't feel it's essential for Delmar to have electronic arms to live. It isn't as long as there's someone to take care of him," she said.

Bell's injury has not forced him from the mainstream of society. He still goes out for dinner and dancing, he attends farm sales and auctions, and takes trips with his friends, such as an outing last summer to Six Flags amusement park in St. Louis.

He has also not allowed his injury to harm his relationship with Laufman. The couple was married three weeks ago in Paris. Bell wants eventually to have his own home with his new wife.

"I want to be able to take care of

Delmar Bell was a chapter officer three of his four years as an active member of the Paris, Illinois, FFA Chapter. This story, reprinted courtesy of the Terre Haute Tribune-Star, *was submitted by Rita Boren, Paris FFA Chapter chaplain.*

By Denise Egan

myself. I want to be more independent and able to go any place without someone taking care of me," he said.

A self-described "workaholic" who loves the outdoors, Bell said he missed farming that spring as he recovered from his injuries, and sat for hours on a porch swing watching the farm season take seed.

"It was hard on me to see my friends out plowing," he said.

What he can't do on the farm he often does indoors with a toy tractor and implement collection started after a friend gave him a tractor in the hospital.

"I still want to pursue my career in farming even after I get the electronic arms," Bell said. "That's what I like. That's what I love."

He admits that it's difficult at times to keep his spirits from sinking. When his mood dips, he battles back.

"I'll go for a long walk or go out and sit on the porch swing for a while," Bell said. "I'll stop and think that there's someone worse off than me. I can walk and some can't. I can see and some can't."

Bell's attitude is a source of inspiration to those around him.

"He always had a great perspective on life, even before the accident," Lori said. "He could always see someone worse off than he was." •••

Update: Delmar Bell received a special Christmas gift this past December. Through the fundraising efforts of his friends, including the FFA, Delmar was fitted with the first of his electronic Utah Artificial Arms. The Paris FFA Chapter raised $625 of the $40,000 needed to purchase the single arm by raffling off a color TV.

The arm, pictured on facing page, is harnessed to the remaining stump of Bell's right arm. Six electrodes in the harness are attached to the two muscles in Bell's arm, which then control the artificial limb. He can rotate the hand 360 degrees in either direction and open and close the thumb and first two fingers to grasp objects.

"It seems pretty weird to look down and see a hand instead of a hook," said Bell, glancing down at his new hand. The hook was used before the much more sophisticated electronic arm.

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Getting Aboard the ATVenture

All-Terrain Vehicle Usage is Booming in Utility and Recreation. Here's How to Ride One Safely.

With three wheels or four, all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) are becoming a recreational and useful fixture on the American scene.

Today, families are utilizing their ATV to mow the lawn, till the garden, plow snow from the driveway, spray for weed control, and haul hay, firewood or fertilizer. Farmers use them as low-cost alternatives to the pickup truck, and construction companies utilize these machines for light hauling. Finally, when the work is done, ATV owners go riding in pastures and on trails for enjoyment and recreation.

What is an ATV? The generally accepted definition is that an ATV is a vehicle less than 50 inches wide, weighing less than 600 pounds, that is straddled and made for offroad use. It rides on usually three or four low-pressure tires.

Boom! The ATV market entered a boom period with an estimated 250,000 unit sales in 1982, 425,000 in 1983, and 550,000 sales in 1984 and '85. More than 2,000,000 are currently in use, with an estimated 2.3 users per vehicle. Predictably, when many new riders began using the machines for both utility and recreation, some of them—through misuse or inexperience—got hurt.

ATVs are designed for offroad use only, and are not to be ridden on roads or highways. Trails, deserts, dunes and bayous contain a variety of terrain, and the ATV is an extremely rider-interactive, terrain-interactive machine. The terrain acts upon the machine, which forces the rider to interact with the ATV.

Photo by Author

An SIVA instructor shows proper riding style for a right-hand turn. His body is forward and leaning into the turn, while his weight is on his outside foot.

Instinctive Control

If you've ridden a bicycle or motorcycle, you're familiar with what we might call "instinctive" control. To turn a two-wheeler to the left, your instinct is to lean with the vehicle. Your instinct here is correct. On an ATV, however, that extra third or fourth wheel makes turning more complex. Instinct is not enough; proper riding technique must be learned.

Most ATVs have a solid "live" rear axle for improved offroad traction; it allows both rear wheels to turn at the same speed. Simply nudging the handlebar to turn is not enough; the machine may continue to move straight ahead. Instead, a rider must shift properly to weight the outside wheel and lighten the inside wheel.

Another factor in control is that some ATVs have a non-mechanical suspension; their low-pressure, high-flotation tires are their primary means of absorbing bumps from the terrain. Larger ATVs built in recent years tend to also have a mechanical suspension in the form of springs and shock absorbers. Those who ride both types of machines must adjust their riding styles accordingly. Because they are ridden only offroad, ATVs must have adequate ground clearance. As a result the seat is relatively high off the ground, which necessitates special cornering techniques.

Learning to Ride: Lessons

It makes sense. ATVs are not toys, but motor vehicles sold in motor vehicle dealerships. Just as when you learn to drive a car, when you learn to ride an ATV—you take lessons.

In 1983, Honda, Kawasaki, Suzuki, and Yamaha, the four major manufacturers of ATVs, established the Specialty Vehicle Institute of America (SVIA). The goal of this national non-profit association is to promote the safe and responsible use of specialty vehicles, including ATVs. The association offers its ATV Rider's Course in all parts of the country. I recently took part in one near San Bernardino, California.

The instructors reminded us to never, ever climb aboard the machine unless we were fully dressed for riding (see sidebar). Mount by placing your left foot on the left footrest, then swing your right foot over. This reinforces the idea that riders must not let their feet wander, as those whirling high-traction tires are close behind.

Pre-Ride Check

"You can ride farther in an hour than you can walk in a day," our instructors told us, which brought home the importance of a pre-ride check and use of our owner's manual. Items to check include: 1) Tires, for air pressure and cuts or gouges; 2) Wheels, for tightness of nuts and for play; 3) Control cables, for smooth operation and free play; 4) Brakes, for familiarization of lever position and

By Bill Stermer

smooth operation; 5) Foot shifter, for firm attachment and position; 6) Lights and switches, to make certain that all electrical components work properly; 7) Oil and fuel, for adequate supply; 8) Drive train, check chain for proper adjustment and lubrication, or check driveshaft for leaks; 9) Nuts and bolts, check for tightness.

Review control placements before you start your ATV, especially if you are not familiar with this particular machine. Various brands and models differ from each other in many ways. Some have rear brakes only; some have front and rear brakes. Some have automatic clutches; some have hand clutches; and some transmissions are fully automatic. The owner's manual includes information about ATV controls and maintenance, along with riding and use tips.

Safe Riding

The instructors explained that when a vehicle turns, one rear wheel must travel a greater distance around the outside of the turn while the inside wheel travels a shorter distance. But most ATVs, as you recall, utilize a live axle that causes both rear tires to turn at the same speed. Here we learned a very important point—during turns, the rider must shift his body forward and to the inside of the turn, while pressing weight down on the *outside* footrest.

This seeming contradiction really works. Weighting the outside tire causes it to track and drive through the turn; the unweighted inside tire simply scrubs the surface. By shifting his mass to the inside, the rider counters the inside tire's tendency to lift in the turn.

Other points covered in the class included: 1) When riding uphill, stand up to keep you weight forward over the front wheel. 2) When riding downhill, keep your weight rearward. 3) If you are riding up a hill and lose momentum, if possible make a "V" turn and ride back down. If you must stop while riding up a hill, apply the parking brake *before* you begin to roll backwards, and dismount to the uphill side. If you are able to, drag the rear of the ATV around until it's uphill. If you cannot do this, stand uphill of the ATV and turn the handlebars to the left while pumping the parking brake. Slowly back it around until it's pointed downhill. 4) When traversing a hill, always keep your weight to the uphill side.

It would be impossible to cover all the useful, excellent tips we learned in the SVIA ATV Rider's Course in this short article. The best thing for you, or for anyone you know who rides an ATV, to do is take the course which cost $10-$50. Find the SVIA Rider's Course nearest you by calling toll free (800) 447-4700. The SVIA further can send you, at no charge, any of its informative booklets: "Tips for the ATV Rider," "ATV Off Road Practice Guide," and "Parents, Youngsters and ATVs."

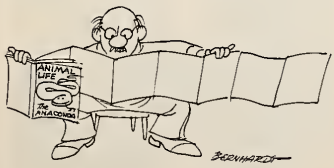
Finally, the owner's manual provided with your ATV should include many tips for riding your ATV well, and safely. Read it, and the SVIA booklets, take the course, then join the ATVenture! •••

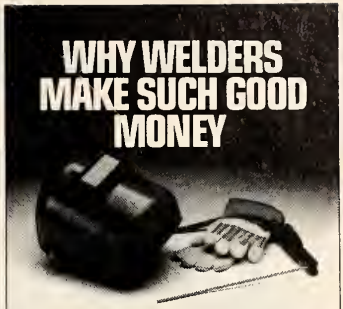
Dressing the Part

A FOOTBALL player wouldn't think of butting heads on the field without his helmet, shoulder pads, hip and thigh pads. An ATV rider's equipment will always include a good helmet that meets the requirements of the Department of Transportation (DOT), Snell Memorial Foundation, or both. Check for the appropriate stickers inside.

ATV riders also need to protect their eyes from dust, dirt thrown by other machines, and branches by wearing a helmet face shield, or goggles. Regardless of whether you're riding your ATV for work on the farm, or for recreation, full protection is needed. Hands need heavy gloves, such as motocross gloves with special knuckle padding. Off-road motorcycle boots protect the ankles and feet.

Finally, wear a long-sleeved shirt and long pants such as jeans. Even better are padded motocross pants and jerseys. All of the above equipment is available in many motorcycle dealerships and accessory stores.





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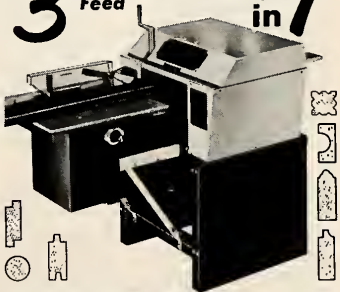

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Here is the team in the office of Secretary Lyng at USDA. From left, Kevin Yost, secretary, from Nebraska; Jayme Feary, southern vice president, from Alabama; Kevin Eblen, president, from Iowa; Secretary Richard Lyng; Jones Loflin, eastern vice president, from North Carolina; Dean Harder, central vice presient, from Minnesota; and Daren Coppock, western vice president, from Oregon.

National Officer *ACTION* Update: Kickoff for Their Year

The national officer team has been on the road and on the go since they were elected in November. They have been busy planning and preparing for their year of service to the organization which is typically 345 days of travel to speak, meet and greet members everywhere.

After national convention, they stayed in Kansas City to get better acquainted and to get their team organized. Then, all six guys went back to their college campuses to wrap up there. On December 8 they arrived in Washington to begin sessions at the National FFA Center and around the national capital area.

The first meeting at the Center was a reception hosted by the nearly 100 employees to meet the new officers. Then it was off to work in the FFA library with Mr. Tony Hoyt, leadership specialist and their mentor for the year.

They spent time learning how the Supply Service operates, met with the staff of the publication division where the FFA magazine and *Between Issues* newsletter are published and met with program officers like international, contests and awards. They were hosted during the week by FFA Alumni and by the National Council and toured the National Vo-Ag Teachers Association offices adjacent to the FFA Center.

For one of their training sessions, former national officer Bruce Kettler spent time with them about the details of planning for the year—how to organize and pack and handle correspondence and what to expect. Former national president Doug Rinker, now a vo-ag instructor in Winchester, Virginia, hosted the officers in his department and helped them with conducting an effective chapter visit.

National FFA Foundation staff member Kim Havens escorted the team to Philadelphia where they met with economics editors of *Farm Journal* and then visited agribusinesses.

National Advisor Case met with the team and helped them gain a perspective about the future of the organization during this time of changing agriculture and education.

A highlight of their stay in Washington was the visit with President Reagan in his office at the White House. The officers spent more than 15 minutes with the President and talked with him about leadership and about the future for young people in agriculture. After the time in the White House, they were guests at the lighting of the National Christmas Tree.

On the way out of the White House, news media approached the officers and Kevin Yost was filmed and interviewed. It will not be the last on-the-spot interview the six-man officer team.

Also at USDA, Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Peter Myers spent quality time with the officers to help them prepare for their year as spokesmen for American agriculture. He was willing to tackle hard-to-answer questions and then hosted the team for lunch at USDA.

The officer team had a round-the-table discussion with Secretary of Education William Bennett is his office to get a feel for the national perspective on education and to share the feelings of vocational agriculture students with this leader in American education.

Just before the new officers left Kansas City in November, they visited with Willie Nelson in his travel bus and presented him with the Distinguished Service Citation for the large contributions made to FFA scholarships from Farm Aid concerts.

The team dug into operations at the Center to get a feel of how things work like using the computer to sign on to the Ag Ed Network and pull off news about their election and new scholarships available from the FFA.

New jackets were lettered for the officers after they arrived at the Center and Supply Service production manager Jimmy Long helped Dean try on his.

And the team spent time seeing the nation's capital, time preparing for their travel to Japan in January by getting passports and studying Japanese customs; time coordinating six travel schedules to cover state conventions and leadership events during the year and finally, ended their two weeks at the Center at the annual Christmas luncheon with employees and Santa. •••

Training for the Canine Corps

Man's best friend has long been known to provide love, companionship and loyalty. Dogs help treat the emotionally disturbed; motivate the physically handicapped and disabled; and revitalize the lonely and elderly.

Broome-Tioga FFA in Binghamton, New York, offers a canine program for students which is a three-way partnership between a dog breeder, student and the state police. Bill Edmunds, a private breeder in Endicott, donates purebred German Shepherd puppies and retains the title while the students raise them. Each dog is worth more than $2,000 when it is given to police to be trained for their canine patrol.

The students' responsibility involves socializing the dog. Students are selected to raise the 8-12-week old puppies for a year to 16 months. The student and the parent have to sign a contract to which the whole family is committed.

The animals are raised under the guidance of the breeder and the animal care instructors. They are to be socialized by the student and introduced to many unusual circumstances so they can be readily adapted to police work.

Students teach basic obedience including sit, stay, heel and housebreaking. The dogs develop an outgoing, friendly attitude—aggression is not encouraged.

The dogs are taken everywhere with the student and introduced to odd circumstances. Max, a shepherd being raised by Tracy James and her family, has gone tubing, stayed at restaurants as well as various other activities.

The student is only responsible for the introductory phase of training. Once the animals have been socialized, the police take over. The dog is turned over to police for the canine program.*(Susan Castor)* •••

The Campus Pond

The Northome, Minnesota, Chapter took on a monstrous project to build a one-acre wildlife pond right on school grounds. The school is located on 80 acres out in the country.

The area was brushy and swampy before the chapter and natural resources class took over. The idea came about in the spring of 1985 when the natural resources class was looking for wildlife habitat projects that could be done on the school grounds.

During the next year the class examined the area and drew up proposals for the pond shape. Guest speakers from the Soil Conservation Service, Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Services and the Department of Natural Resources helped develop our plan for the pond. In the spring we advertised for contractors to do the actual excavating, which was done in August of 1986.

Chapter President John Jensen asked the school board to match our funding dollar-for-dollar up to $1,750. ASCS supported the project with $1,800 from their conservation project funds.

All in all, the FFA did have several purposes for wanting to build the pond; 1) improve the wildlife habitat such as duck nesting; 2) improve the appearance of the school grounds; 3) make it possible for winter sports such as hockey and broomball; and 4) provide science study area.

This fall we made soil tests before fertilizing and seeding it with grasses and legumes to complete the project. The chapter safety committee will be consulting the sheriff's office for advice on planning some kind of safety feature to prevent accidental drowning. *(Tiffany Kish)* •••

Let's Talk Turkey

The holiday children's barnyard and food collection drive of the Ysleta FFA in El Paso, Texas, netted 750 pounds of food, $300 cash and television coverage on three stations. The turkey was a popular attraction between Thanksgiving and Christmas for the little ones. •••

Pizza Talks

For members of the D.C. Everest FFA Chapter of Schofield, Wisconsin, making a pizza was not a unique experience. The catch was...to do it 14 different times for over 350 fourth grade students in eight elementary schools for the Food for America program.

The pizza part of the classroom presentation was part of the chapter's total Food for America program including a farm tour, coloring book contest and donation of activity guides to teachers.

The "pizza idea" was formed at the

(Continued on Page 42)

(Pick up ACTION from Page 41)

annual chapter officers' workshop in northern Wisconsin. After seeing the new activity guide on "What's on a pizza," chapter officers set the goal to actually make the pizza as a part of the classroom presentation of the program.

Chapter officers believed that most all the students would like pizza but maybe they did not know where all the individual ingredients came from.

The chapter purchased enough ingredients from a local store. During each presentation, a pizza was made from scratch with FFA members discussing the origin of each ingredient as a plant or animal product and how it was processed.

To reinforce the final program from individual ingredients, the chapter cooperated with Tombstone Pizza Corporaion of Medford, Wisconsin. Tombstone Pizza donated 28 ready-made pizzas, two pizza ovens and pizza information to supplement our Food for America program. *(Timothy Micke, advisor, submitted via the Ag Ed Network)* •••

COPs on Patrol

The Calallen Chapter in Corpus Cristi, Texas, has been involved in a good list of community service efforts.

We took part in the adopt-a-highway program. Once every two or three weeks, selected vo-ag members pick up trash and debris along a two-mile stretch of the highway in front of the high school.

We are also take part in what we call Calallen On Patrol, or COP. At night some FFA members are asked to drive by the school just to make sure everything is all right. The success of this program has been strong even though it's voluntary.

At our school's homecoming, the chapter built floats over golf carts to carry class dutchesses and their dates. The floats were decorated by school clubs and the FFA. *(Robert Wilson)* •••

Grade School Safety

Members of the Polk County, Tennessee, FFA Safety Committee developed a specific safety project for two elementary schools.

Shana Price gave a presentation on playground and swimming safety, while Christy Sloan discussed Halloween safety. Sheryl Frase, Randy Locke, Lee Underwood and Jeremy Dill aided in explaining safety worksheets about poison safety, playground safety and danger sites such as broken glass and abandoned buildings. *(Lee Underwood and Jeremy Dill, Reporters)* •••

Trees for Tots

The Smithville, Ohio, FFA donated a decorated Christmas tree to the Akron Children's Hospital Tree Festival held in early December before Christmas.

This is the second year the FFA has helped with the project. The chapter purchased a six-foot artificial tree and decorated it with varnished animals and toy tractors.

The animals were handmade by 19 members and two guests in a workshop held in the ag classroom to decorate the tree.

There were 100 decorated trees in the festival. The trees are sold and funds go to the children's hospital. *(Tammy Stretch, Reporter)* •••

Corn Golden Opportunities

The Morris, Illinois, Chapter was kept busy during the Grundy County Corn Festival this fall. The FFA also entered a float in the festival parade. The theme was "Providing Golden Opportunities" and had several members represent different categories in FFA.

The other major FFA activity was the FFA barnyard with various farm animals loaned by members. The animals list included a sow and litter, baby chicks and a llama. Over 8,000 people went through the tent.

The chapter also ushered at an Eddie Rabbitt concert, helped cook and serve a Farm Bureau pork chop dinner and helped sponsor a kid's tractor pull and tractor races. *(Matthew Hunt, Reporter)* •••

Tiny Tractor Traction

National Ag Day gave several chapter members of the Amboy, Illinois, FFA an opportunity to demonstrate a special hobby of theirs.

A micro-mini tractor pull was held in the mall area of Amboy High School. Four separate weight class divisions were held with the aid of a specially-built track and a unique design weighted sled. Members invited the kindergarten classes to witness the championship round and then gave a demonstration on how a tractor could be tipped over if it was hitched wrong or improperly weighted. Special safety stickers were then given to the kindergarten class members and they were asked to put them on a tractor of someone they knew. *(From the National Chapter application)* •••

"Garbage Bag" Kids

Saturday, October 25, the Tipton, Missouri, FFA held its 36th annual FFA barbeque. The evening was blessed with a downpour of rainfall.

Since the members were expecting to feed around 600 people, it was the job of the sophomore members to park cars and keep the parking lot orderly. All members were instructed to be in official dress, which they were. But when the rain came, the members had to think fast to protect their jackets. Jeff Schmidt and Tom Zurmiller improvised raincoats out of plastic garbage bags to protect their FFA jackets, thus they became our chapter "garbage bag kids."

On the brighter side the chapter ended up making about $1,400 to operate the chapter for the coming year.

Members and their parents formed two work shifts from 4:30 to 6:30 and 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. *(Joe Rowland, Advisor)* •••

Chapter Runs National Contest

The ninth annual National Invitational Parliamentary Law Contest was hosted by Carthage, Missouri, just before the National FFA Convention on November 11 and 12.

(Continued on Page 44)

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 (Pick up ACTION from Page 42)

Teams from 18 different states participated in the contest: Harlan, Iowa; Leigh, Nebraska; Mishicot, Wisconsin; Ripley, Mississippi; Plant City, Florida; Renville, Minnesota; Ripley, West Virginia; Staunton, Virginia; Springville, Utah; Oxford, Ohio; Gilcrest, Colorado; White House, Tennessee; Woodburn, Indiana; Lost Springs, Kansas; Colon, Michigan; Kennewick, Washington; Gainesville, Missouri; and Garretson, South Dakota.

Plaques were presented to each team as well as a certificate for each member. The 1986 winners were: first gold, Tennessee; second gold, Missouri; third gold, Nebraska; and gold, Utah, Washington.

Silver teams were from Colorado, Florida, Minnesota, Michigan and Ohio. Bronze teams were from Mississippi, Indiana, Kansas, South Dakota, Iowa, Virginia and Wisconsin.

The National Invitational Parliamentary Law Contest was started in 1977 since national FFA did not provide a contest for winning state teams. Members of the Carthage, Missouri, FFA Chapter, realizing the need, developed the national invitational. Over the years, the contest has grown in size and popularity with strong support of the Carthage FFA Alumni.

The Carthage Chapter has a membership of 136 members. Carthage is a city of 12,000 located in the southwest corner of Missouri, just 150 miles south of Kansas City, and thus a perfect location for participating teams en route to the national convention. Teams stay overnight in homes of Carthage FFA and Alumni members. *(Jalayne Woodhead, Reporter)* •••

Farmhand Olympics

Liberty, Oklahoma, FFA held a farmhand olympics for teams to test their farm work skills.

Contestants got to pick eight events out of eleven; cow milking, hay stacking, feed stacking, pig calling, nail driving, round hay bale rolling, cow chip throwing, log splitting, railroad tie race, bucket relay and post hole digging.

Each event was timed and each placing from one to four got points.

First place went to Donovan Cotner and Mark Cottom; second place was awarded to Marty Martin and David Martin; third place was Glen Bown and Junior Butler; and fourth place was Mike Caywood and Shannon Brown. *(Rodney Hinton)* •••

Shearing and Caring

House calls are not a thing of the past to members of the Lawton, Oklahoma, FFA Chapter. In celebration of National Nursing Home Week, several members brought the farm to the residents of a local nursing home. Animals, trophies and scrapbooks were displayed along with an actual demonstration of sheep shearing. *(From the National Chapter application)* •••

Checkerboard Classroom

A new learning device was discovered in Richmond, Missouri, by vo-ag instructor Jim Proffitt, that looks just like a checkerboard. It is a square of mini-plots.

He came up with the idea when we were studying horticulture. The mini-plots are like miniature gardens. You can grow lettuce, cauliflower, corn, alfalfa, brome or orchard grass.

The mini-plots look like a checkerboard but the system lets you try a variety of crops and nutrients in a small space.

Advisor Proffitt encouraged the mini-plots so more members could have experience with all kinds of plant material.

With the mini-plots we learn which crops grow best in our soil. This helps when we are studying a soils unit. We also experiment with different nutrients. We learn to identify crop diseases and the effects of some insects.

The first year we provided the seed ourselves. The second year we told the local co-op about our mini-plots and they have been furnishing most of our seed ever since. *(Karen Elliott, Reporter)* •••

FFA and Pinky the Cow

Over 1,000 elementary students attended the fourth annual Harvest Day Festival in October, hosted by the Harford Vo-Tech FFA Chapter in Bel Air, Maryland.

The festival is part of the chapter's Food for America program, acquainting young people with the world of agriculture and where their food comes from. The 36-member chapter handled all of the 1,000 students with ease.

There were four educational stations visited. The young people started out at the greenhouse area where horticulture

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MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

students demonstrated the way food was grown in the past, the way it is currently produced and some ideas as to how it may be generated in the future.

FFA members Marcy Schwab and John Sandoval dressed as Indians and Patty England, Ron Parks, Scott Wallis and Tony Caruso were Pilgrims. They put on a skit showing how the Indians taught the Pilgrims how to grow corn.

Kelly Walters and Carey Bunker showed present day practices of growing plants while Michelle Perry, Liz Christopher and Ronda Cunningham dressed as space people demonstrating the world of hydroponics.

After touring the greenhouse area, the elementary students got to view new farm equipment donated by area businesses including a new Case-International 4-wheel drive tractor. This was popular with the youngsters and they insisted on sitting on all of the tractors—not just one.

The third station was devoted to a live petting zoo that housed farm animals brought in by FFA members. The wooden animal pens were designed and constructed by the agriculture students.

The fourth station was in the agriculture shop where the students were greeted by a 7-foot pink fuzzy cow. It was actually first year FFA member Tracy Fitzgerald, dressed as "Pinky the Cow."

Pinky introduced the visitors to four exhibits created by students to show the end product of agricultural production outlined.

These included a handmade 4-foot cheeseburger created by Alvie Cleavenger; an egg hatching display by Mark Bennett with live baby chicks; a wool-spinning demonstration by Charlotte Conetta, a local wool spinner and Carla Jones; and a butter-making display by Ronny Hanan.

"Pinky the Cow" helped get the elementary students interested in ag products exhibits at the FFA festival.

Harford Vo-Tech is only five years old but the Harvest Day Festival has grown from educating just a handful of youngsters about agriculture to over 1,000 students this year. The chapter is hoping for 1,500 next year. *(Mike Roach)* •••

No News Is Not Good

Leslee Janss, the Neosho, Missouri, FFA Chapter reporter, wanted the members to be informed of all chapter activities such as honors, important dates, special thanks and jobs to be done. So she created a two-page monthly newsletter using a word processing program and called it the "Aggie Audience."

Leslee felt no news was not good news for the Neosho FFA Chapter. She also offers space for members to list sale items.

Getting Involved

There are two ways to participate in the new BRIDGE scholarship program for handicapped members. First, if you are qualified to receive the scholarship, you can apply by requesting a College Scholarship Program application form from the National FFA Organization. Please send your request to C. Coleman Harris, National FFA Executive Secretary, Box 15160, Alexandria, VA 22309. All applications are due by April 1, 1987.

You can also participate by contributing to the BRIDGE program. The BRIDGE scholarships and chapter awards will be provided from the interest earned on the BRIDGE Endowment Fund.

Any individual or FFA chapter wishing to contribute to the endowment should send a contribution to the National FFA Foundation with the coupon to ensure proper credit.

Please make checks payable to The National FFA Foundation.

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The Joke Page

The teacher told her class of fourth graders, *"Okay, class, today each one of you is going to tell us what your dad does and spell his occupation. Who would like to go first? Teddy?"*

Teddy stood up and said, *"My dad is a baker, b-a-k-e-r. He makes bread and stuff like that."*

"Very good," replied the teacher. *"Who's next? Harrison?"*

Harrison stood up and said, *"My dad's an engineer, e-n-g...e-n..."*

"That's okay, Harrison," said the teacher. *"Who wants to be next? Okay, Bob."*

Bob stook up and said, *"My dad's a gambler, g-a-m-b-l-e-r, and he'll bet you ten-to-one that Harrison never does spell engineer."*

Roger Kraus
Wilson, Kansas

"Son, this is going to hurt me more than it does you!"

A man with a son in college was asked what his son was going to do after he graduated, *"I think,"* said the father, *"from the letters he sends me he's going to be a professional fund raiser."*

Mark Mara
Clear Lake, Wisconsin

Kep: *"What do Alexander the Great and Ivan the Terrible have in common?"*
Red: *"Their middle name!"*

Kale Watkins
Denton, North Carolina

After making a few pastoral calls at a local hospital the pastor got on a crowded elevator to head for the lobby. A man, grinning broadly, was passing around a photograph. Amid appreciative smiles, someone asked for the weight. *"Six-and-a-half pounds!"* the young man exclaimed.

"Congratulations," the minister said, *"boy or girl?"*

He grinned and said, *"Bass."*

Marguerite Reasner
Indianapolis, Indiana

Johnny: *"Mom's big dream is to see me living in the White House."*

Johnny's sister: *"Are you going to make Mom's dream come true?"*

Johnny: *"Sure. I've already bought the paint."*

Bobbie Mae Cooley
Bowen, Illinois

Two mountain men were at a lake watching water skiing for the first time. The first asked, *"Why boat go so fast?"*

Other man: *"Man on string chase it."*

Evan Luthye
Perry, Oklahoma

A little girl was showing her playmate through her new home. *"And here's Daddy's den,"* she said. *"Does your daddy have a den?"*

"No," was the answer, *"my daddy just growls all over the house."*

Marguerite Reasner
Indianapolis, Indiana

Joe: *"Did you hear Comet won't be pulling Santa's sleigh this year?"*

Moe: *"No, really? Why?*

Joe: *"He has to stay at home and clean the sink."*

Jodie Boyd
Merrill, Michigan

The other night a couple of my friends came to borrow my coonhound. They came back the next morning and told me they had shot him. And I asked what happened?

They said, *"He went to the first tree and barked twice. We went to that tree and killed two coons. He went to another tree and barked four times. We went to that tree and killed four coons. Then he went to another tree and came back to us shaking a stick, hitting us with it so we shot him."*

I said, *"You idiots, he was telling you there were more coons in that tree than you could shake a stick at."*

Robert Cross
Barry, Illinois

Chris: *"How is a judge like an English teacher?"*

Danny: *"I don't know, how?"*

Chris: *"Because they both like long sentences."*

Chris Smith
Columbia, Tennessee

Q: Why was the bowlegged cowboy fired from his job of rounding up cattle?

A: He couldn't get his calves together.

Kathy Rousey
Randleman, North Carolina

Charlie, the Greenhand

"This is a pretty good report card for someone who does his homework during commercials!"

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Yeah, my Dad sure knows his seed corn. Too bad he doesn't pick his baseball teams the same way.

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